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ATTEMPTED PRESIDENTIAL ASSASSINATION

NEWS ARTICLES

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The Day of the Jackal in Washington

By Lou Cannon

Washington Post Staff Writer

It began as an ordinary spring day in Washington: light showers, the usual lines of tourists at the White House, a routine speech by the president.

Then, gunfire. For six hours the nation watched and wondered. Would the president live? Would he survive and be disabled? Would the nation be plunged into constitutional crisis?

It was 2:24 p.m. Monday, March 31. Michael K. Deaver wasn't supposed to be at the Washington Hilton. He was supposed to be

back in the White House working on the president's schedule. But it was a busy day at the office for chief of staff James A. Baker III, and Deaver, his deputy, had volunteered to go in his place with President Reagan when he addressed the Building Trades Council.

No one noticed the gunman before the firing began. No one particularly saw him, or

knew he was there. On the sidewalk outside the lower entrance to the Washington Hilton, a Secret Service agent gave the routine radio signal that all was clear.

It was 2:25 p.m. Deaver will never forget what happened next.

"The president and I were walking out together," he recalls. "The press started asking their usual questions. I turned and

moved [James S.] Brady up because he was the press secretary. I took three steps, then the first shot went over my right shoulder. I knew what it was. I ducked down, with the help of a shove from a Washington policeman, who also was dropping to the ground. I smelled the powder. I never saw the gunman."

Secret Service agent Jerry Parr, head of the presidential detail, never saw the gunman, either. The gunman was shielded by the crowd.

Secret Service agents had looked over this crowd, as they always do. It is not easy to spot a concealed gunman in a friendly crowd. Thirty seconds before the president arrived at the hotel, Parr had received a favorable situation report.

"Rawhide follow to Rawhide advance," he said, using the code word for the president. "Situation report?"

"Situation negative," the advance agent replied.

The quiet ended in the rapid fire of a handgun and screams from the crowd. Within nine seconds six shots had been fired in rapid succession at the presidential party.

One shot hit Secret Service agent Timothy J. McCarthy, who thrust himself between President Reagan and the gunman, in the stomach.

One shot hit District police officer Thomas K. Delahanty in the neck.

One shot, although no one knew it immediately, bounced off the armored limousine and hit Reagan in the chest, penetrating his left lung. Yet another hit a window in a building across the street and fragmented.

And one shot, the shot that did the most damage, struck White House press secretary Brady over the left eye, penetrating his brain. Brady fell, with blood gushing from his head. An advance man, Rick Ahearn, put a white handkerchief under Brady's head. It quickly turned red with blood.

In a matter of seconds Parr had shoved Reagan into the limousine and pulled the door shut. He commanded the driver, Drew Unrue, to pull away, and the presidential limousine sped from the scene. A staff control car, with Deaver inside, followed.

"You son-of-a-bitch, you broke my rib," Reagan said to Parr inside the limousine. He was joking, but he was hurting from the blow.

Later in the week the president would tell Deaver that he hadn't realized he had been hit by a bullet but that he certainly knew he had been hit.

"It was a blow like I never felt," Reagan said. "It was like someone hitting me with a hammer as hard as they could."

Parr, not knowing that the president had been shot, originally ordered the limousine to return to the White House. But when he saw Reagan coughing blood, the bright-red oxygenated blood that comes from the lung, he and the president thought a rib had been broken by the protective shove. Parr told Unrue to drive to George Washington University Hospital instead of the White House. He radioed the control car and told Deaver where he was going.

At the Hospital

At the shooting scene, agents had overwhelmed a young blond man later identified as John Warnock Hinckley Jr. They piled him into a police car and took him away.

Before the limousine reached the hospital, nurses had cleared space in the resuscitation bay for the shooting victims. A first radio message has told them there has been a shooting and that "some men" have been hurt. A second message informed them that one was the president of the United States.

At 2:35 p.m. the limousine arrived at George Washington. Reagan was feeling pain in his chest and was having difficulty breathing. As he got out of the car, D.C. paramedic Roberto Hernandez recognized the limousine. On inaugural day he had been assigned to the ambulance that followed the new president around Washington.

"I literally froze," Hernandez said afterward. "I didn't believe what I was actually seeing. I noticed he looked very pale and he had an apprehensive look about him . . . The stare in his eyes was like he was in a slight daze."

Reagan got out of the car. He walked to the emergency room, his face drawn, Parr's arm around him. Incredibly, no one had thought to order a stretcher to be ready for him. When the president entered the emergency room, he fell to one knee.

The Washington Post _____
Washington Star-News _____
Daily News (New York) _____
The New York Times _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The Atlanta Constitution _____
The Los Angeles Times _____

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"I can't breathe," he said.

For a moment the workers in the resuscitation bay were stunned. "Is that who I think it is?" a nurse asked. Then they sprang into action. Hernandez removed Reagan's shoes, socks and pants while his partner Eric Simmons cut off his shirt.

"All I could think of was Parkland," Deaver said, referring to the Dallas hospital where John F. Kennedy was taken.

But Deaver, a short, quiet, patient man who knows Reagan better than anyone on the White House staff and was treated like a son by him, was busy with other matters. Cool and collected, Deaver found a telephone bay outside the emergency ward and called the White House. He reached Margaret Tutwiler, the secretary to chief of staff Baker.

"Keep this line open, Margaret," he said. "There's been a shooting, and the president's hurt. We don't think he was hit, but he may have broken a rib."

At the White House

At the White House they already knew about the shooting. But they did not know much about what had happened or that the president had been shot.

Baker had been working in his office through the morning. At 1 p.m. he went to the White House mess to eat his usual lunch: a tunafish salad sandwich and buttermilk. Brady and his deputy, Larry Speakes, were finishing their lunch as Baker and Tutwiler arrived. They exchanged pleas-

antries, and Brady said he was going to the Hilton for Reagan's speech.

The first word at the White House that something had gone wrong came in a telephone call from David Prospero, an assistant press secretary. He was at the scene where the shots were fired, and he saw Brady go down.

Prospero rushed into the hotel and grabbed the first telephone he found. It was a charge phone, so he gave the operator the White House press office number and billed the call to his home telephone.

"Get me Larry. It's an emergency," he said into the telephone.

Speakes was just coming out of a meeting with other White House aides in the Roosevelt Room on the automobile regulation package that is to be announced this week. Betsy Strong, a press aide, ran up and told him Prospero was calling. He picked up the phone of Kathy Ahern, Brady's secretary.

The president has been shot at and Brady has been hit," Prospero said.

"Thanks," Speakes replied, and hung up. From the look on his face the others in the room knew it was a crisis.

"I don't know what it looked like, but it hit pretty hard," Speakes said.

Ahern began to weep.

White House staff director David R. Gergen was coming out of the same meeting Speakes had attended. The first instinct of both was to walk out on the colonnade and watch the motorcade return, which they expected momentarily. Instead, Speakes telephoned Jack Warner of the Secret Service. Warner knew something had happened, but did not have the details.

Gergen ran down the corridor to Baker's office with the news. He burst into the office, almost knocking down Tutwiler, who had her back against the door.

Gergen went to find White House counselor Edwin Meese III, the president's top aide, who was with his deputy, Craig Fuller. They already knew. Baker ran down to the Secret Service command post in the basement to find out what had happened. It was about 2:35 p.m., the time of Reagan's arrival at the hospital.

At the Hotel

Back at the Hilton, the ambulances had borne away the wounded men, leaving behind the remnants of the shooting: an umbrella, a dropped briefcase, the bloody sidewalk grate where Brady fell.

Prospero, knowing that the presidential limousine had started out for the White House, mistakenly believed the president had arrived there, and so informed the press. One eyewitness, Ramon Flores, attempted to convince

skeptical reporters that Reagan had been hit. He shrugged his shoulders when they did not believe him.

At the Hospital

Within minutes at George Washington the resuscitation area was crowded with members of the trauma team and Secret Service agents. As Dr. Dennis O'Leary related later, a nurse trying to take Reagan's blood pressure could not hear through the stethoscope because of the din and had to take it by feeling the pulse in Reagan's arm. It was only about 75 — low enough to signal that the president was in danger of shock.

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...dy, trauma team members inserted an intravenous tube and began running fluid into the president's veins. They took blood samples to measure the blood oxygen content and to match Reagan's blood for a transfusion. Meanwhile, they called for O-negative blood, the type that can be given to anyone. Reagan's blood type is O-positive.

Dr. Joseph M. Giardano, the surgeon who heads the trauma team, was among the first to respond to the page, and he saw Reagan within five minutes of his arrival. By then, the president's blood pressure had risen to 100, but he was coughing up blood, his breathing was fast and labored, and the surgeons had discovered the slit-like wound under his left arm.

Giardano said that the likelihood of a collapsed lung and the danger that Reagan might be bleeding from his heart or a major blood vessel made it necessary to insert a chest tube at once.

Outside the resuscitation bay, Deaver and aide David Fisher kept the telephone lines open to the White House. Deaver had Nancy Reagan called immediately. He also asked Tutwiler to tell his secretary to call his wife, Carolyn, and tell her that he was unharmed, but Deaver's secretary, Shirley Moore, had already done so.

Meanwhile, Brady and McCarthy had arrived at the hospital, and Delahanty had been taken to Washington Hospital Center. Brady looked bad and his blood pressure was dangerously high. To the paramedics, McCarthy looked best of all.

"Are you still with us?" a fellow agent asked him. "Oh, yes," McCarthy quickly replied.

At 2:36 p.m. Mrs. Reagan arrived at the hospital. She wanted to see her husband immediately, but was told by Deaver that she could not. When she did get to see him, he greeted her

with a line that may become a classic: "Honey, I forgot to duck."

At the White House

At the White House, events moved swiftly. Tutwiler had left the first White House line open for Deaver, then she rounded up Baker, Meese, Gergen, Speakes and communications director Frank Ursomarso, who were in a hall beyond the Oval Office. She told them Deaver was on the telephone.

Baker went into his office and took one phone. Meese picked up the other phone on the same line. Baker was at his desk. Deaver told them that the president had been shot.

"Shit," said Meese.

"Oh, Jesus," said Baker.

Both men moved swiftly to do what was necessary. They agreed that the vice president had to be called, and that the Cabinet should assemble in the White House Situation Room.

Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr. had called, and Baker called him back.

"It's very important how we handle this world-wide," Haig told Baker, who agreed.

Treasury Secretary Donald T. Regan was the first Cabinet officer to reach Baker's office. Treasury is the boss of the Secret Service, and Regan had been told of the incident within two minutes of its occurrence. Regan was on a long distance call from Los Angeles when the call came, and he hung up and went immediately by car across the street to the White House.

At the hospital, Deaver put White House physician Daniel Ruge on the open line, and Baker took notes on what Ruge told him: "He [the president] has received a chest wound in the left chest. He is in stable condition. The blood pressure and pulse is okay. He is alert and fighting. Next stop could be the operating room. You ought to get right over here."

Haig arrived. Later, at the State Department, a spokesman announced that Baker and Meese had left the White House by the time Haig got there. It was an incorrect announcement. Regan, Baker and Tutwiler all remember that Haig arrived just before Baker and Meese left the office.

They talked briefly, and Meese and Baker agreed that Haig would be the "contact point" at the White House while they were at the hospital. No one said anything about anyone being "in control." But there was a brief discussion of the 25th Amendment, providing for presidential succession, because no one knew how badly

Reagan was hurt. Bush would be back by the time they knew, everyone agreed.

Meese told Tutwiler to get them a car. "I'll handle it," Regan said. He directed an agent to get them a siren-equipped Secret Service car so they could speed through traffic to the hospital. Speakes and Lyn Nofziger were with Meese and Baker.

Nofziger is a longtime Reagan aide who proved a composed man in the day's crisis. He offered to help because "Brady is out of commission," and everyone was happy to have him. He and Speakes are old adversaries, but they buried their differences on that bloody day.

Haig, Regan, Gergen and intergovernmental relations aide Rich Williamson went down to the Situation Room in the White House basement.

At the hospital Deaver alternated his time between Nancy Reagan and the telephones. The grim mood was lightened on one occasion when a hospital clerk with a green form in his hand ran around trying to get some information on the patient. "Who is he?" the clerk wanted to know.

"R-e-a-g-a-n," Deaver spelled out.

"You are kidding," the clerk said.

"I'm not kidding," said Deaver.

Meanwhile, Dr. Neofytos T. Tsangaris, the hospital's acting chief of staff, had been summoned from a meeting by a brief announcement: "The president of the United States is in the emergency room." Tsangaris said he quickly realized that three separate operating rooms, one for each shooting victim, must be readied at once with nurses, technicians and equipment.

It was now 3:20 p.m. and Reagan was being prepared for surgery. He had an oxygen mask over his face when Baker saw him, but winked at his chief of staff.

At 3:30 p.m., approximately 45 minutes after he was brought to the hospital, he was wheeled to the operating room. His bleeding had slowed somewhat, and he had received a transfusion of five units of blood.

"Please tell me you're Republicans," he joked to the masked surgical team surrounding him.

After that, according to operating room technician Michael Borowski, who helped with instruments during the operation, the president was quiet. "I saw Reagan looking around at everybody busy doing their thing . . .," he recalled later. "I just kind of took his hand. He had sort of tears in his eyes . . . He really had this look of appreciation on his face. That's what really touched me."

The first part of the operation required a tiny incision below the navel. Into the incision Giordano inserted about a quart of salt solution to determine whether any bullets had pene-

trated the abdominal cavity and caused bleeding there. When sucked out again, the fluid was clear, indicating no abdominal injuries.

A report was given to Baker and Deaver outside the operating room. Nancy Reagan was told the good news, and tears came to her eyes.

Borowski said Reagan was then turned on his right side and redraped for the more major operation, the toracotomy. Assisted by Dr. Kathleen Cheyney, Dr. Benjamin L. Aaron cut a six-inch incision through the skin parallel with the ribs, extending horizontally from below the left arm toward the center of the chest. Then he used retractors to spread the ribs apart.

Aaron said he could feel splintering of the seventh rib where the bullet had nicked it and ricocheted into the chest. Outside the left lung, he found a large blood clot, and, after he removed it, he could see where the bullet had entered the lung. Quickly, he examined the heart and the major vessels nearby. They were untouched. All the bleeding was coming from the smaller vessels within the torn lung.

"We began to feel around for the bullet . . . and to our chagrin we could not find that bullet within the lung," he said later. Aaron ordered an X-ray taken on the operating table. The bullet was visible, embedded in a portion of the left lung just behind the heart and "flattened almost as thin as a dime," he said.

At last Aaron felt the bullet and pulled it out. Then he removed some of the dead lung tissue, inserted a drain into the bullet's track, and closed the incisions. The president had been in the operating room for 3½ hours, and apparently was out of danger. With a breathing tube in his throat, and still on a respirator, the president was taken to the recovery room.

There had been anxious moments for Nancy Reagan during this operation, moments she spent in a small private office the hospital made available to her and in the chapel, where she met Sarah Brady, whose husband had been erroneously declared dead in mid-afternoon reports on all three television networks.

For 53 minutes after the shooting not much was known at the White House press office. It wasn't until 3:18 p.m. that communications director Ursomarso stood on veteran press aide Connie Gerrard's chair in the upper press office to tell a packed crowd of reporters that Reagan had been shot.

Every television set was turned on as staff and reporters watched replay after replay. The room was full of people who work with Brady every day, and the replays, particularly those in slow motion, made all who were present think that his chances for survival were slight.

Some aides wept for their fallen press secretary. It was pouring rain outside now, and correspondents who usually would have broadcast from the White House lawn stood on chairs in the briefing room to get above the heads of their milling colleagues and talked to fill air time.

At 3:37 p.m. Gergen appeared in the crowded briefing room.

"Good afternoon," he said. "This is to confirm the statements made at George Washington hospital that the president was shot once in the left side this afternoon as he left the hotel. His condition is stable.

"A decision is now being made whether or not to operate to remove the bullet. The White House and the vice president are in communication. And the vice president is now en route to Washington."

On Air Force Two

Going to Washington had not been George Bush's plan. On a day of routine politicking, he had slipped into his blue, Eisenhower-style official flight jacket, buckled his seatbelt and settled back for a moment of relaxation as his plane took off from Fort Worth at 2:41 p.m. EST for a short hop to Austin.

Behind him was a speech to cattlemen and the dedication of the former Hotel Texas as a national monument — it was the hotel where John F. Kennedy had spent his last night before that fatal trip to Dallas. Ahead, in Austin, awaited an address to the Texas Legislature and a news conference.

Air Force Two was still climbing, a couple of minutes later, when Edward Pollard, head of the vice president's Secret Service detail, took an urgent message from the Fort Worth office. He was told of the assassination attempt, and was told that the president had not been hit. And he also was informed, incorrectly, that two Secret Service agents were down. Pollard immediately relayed this message to Bush.

Bush nodded quietly and began talking of the possibility of shortening his Austin stopover. The telephone line flashed again. This time it was Bush's press secretary, Peter Teeley, with a message identical to the one Pollard had given.

The vice president's chief legislative aide, Robert V. Thompson, rushed back to the VIP section in mid-plane and announced to the assembled Bush aides and three Texas congressmen that an attempt had been made on the president's life.

Up front, at 3:04 p.m., Haig telephoned Bush. There is no secure tele-

phone line to Air Force Two, and Haig was guarded in his communication. He also had a very poor connection.

"I think you should come directly back to Washington," Haig said. "There's been an incident." He also told Bush that he would be sending him a message over the coded Telex machine that is the only secure channel of communications between Air Force Two and the ground.

Bush hung up and turned to his aides. "We are going directly back to Washington," he said. "I just spoke to Haig." It was a quarter of an hour later before he learned what had happened.

"Mr. Vice President, in the incident you will have heard about by now, the president was struck in the back," the Telex from Haig said. "Medical authorities are deciding now whether or not to operate. Recommend you return to D.C. at earliest possible moment."

Quickly, the word was passed through the plane. House Majority Leader Jim Wright (D-Tex.) walked into the front cabin, and Bush turned to him and said, "Why in the world would anybody shoot a man like Ronald Reagan?"

Air Force Two did not have enough fuel on board to make it to Washington nonstop, so the plane landed in Austin as scheduled, but only for refueling. Bush stayed on board, sipping on a diet cola and saying very little.

At the White House

At the White House, Cabinet members and other high White House officials assembled in the Situation Room: Attorney General William French Smith, Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger, Transportation Secretary Drew Lewis, National Security Council staff director Richard V. Allen, domestic adviser Martin Anderson, CIA Director William J. Casey, counsel Fred Fielding. Hours later, Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige would arrive.

There were so many people rushing back and forth that Allen tried to close the door to the Situation Room to keep some of the staff members out. Allen put a tape recorder on the table in the center of the room along with another that was already there.

Some knew they were talking for posterity; but others didn't even notice the recorders. What the men in the Situation Room wanted to know were three things: how badly was the president hit? Was the shooting a conspiracy or an individual act? Would Brady survive?

While first reports from the hospital seemed to be positive, everyone in the Situation Room was aware that the president was 70 years old and faced major surgery. They were trying to prepare for every contingency.

Smith and Fielding briefed the Cabinet members on constitutional succession and on the 25th Amendment, which spells out the procedures for the vice president's assuming office in case of presidential disability. The review was brief, because the Cabinet members spent much of the time on the telephone and, like millions of other Americans, before the television set.

Of those in the Situation Room, Smith knew Reagan best. He is Reagan's long-time attorney, a charter member of the "kitchen cabinet" and a close friend. He also has jurisdiction over the FBI, and was on the telephone immediately, checking on Hinckley.

The readout from the FBI showed that the suspect carried psychiatrists' cards in his pocket, which convinced them that he probably was acting on his own.

Smith was outwardly calm, but his thoughts, like Deaver's, went back to the day John F. Kennedy was shot and the pall it cast over the nation. He was relieved to hear that Reagan was trying out one-liners on the doctors, knowing, as he would say later, "that this was a sign of normalcy."

Weinberger had been told by his secretary that he was wanted at the Situation Room. At first, he couldn't find a car, and thought of taking a taxi, but CIA Deputy Director Bobby Inman was visiting him, and he offered to take the defense secretary to the White House.

When Weinberger arrived, Haig was making telephone calls on the only secure phone in the Situation Room. Weinberger stepped outside to call Gen. David Jones, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. They discussed the combat-readiness of American forces, and Weinberger, after receiving unspecified classified information on a little white slip of paper, directed Jones to order "a little higher state of readiness," but one that was short of a full alert.

Other Cabinet members were making similar determinations in their areas of responsibility.

Regan told Treasury Undersecretary for Monetary Affairs Beryl Sprinkel to tell the Federal Reserve that the dollar should be supported on foreign exchange markets. Afterward, Regan described his action as "a normal procedure that has been done before" when some crisis threatens the dollar's value.

The order meant that the Federal Reserve bought dollars with other currencies, though not in massive amounts.

The attention of the officials in the Situation Room then turned to the

television set, which showed Speakes in the press room fending off questions. He hadn't been told much, and some of the questions concerned possible emergency actions the nation was taking in the crisis. He was asked the key question of whether the U.S. military had been placed on higher readiness.

"Not that I'm aware of," Speakes replied.

His response drew criticism from both Weinberger and Haig, but the secretary of state was especially agitated. He said that "the next time someone opens their yap" they had better make sure that what they are saying is true. Weinberger then left the room to make a telephone call.

"We've got a problem, and it's now," Haig said, turning to Allen. "We had better go upstairs and get this straightened out."

Haig and Allen double-timed upstairs to the press room, which the secretary of state, who had undergone open-heart surgery, later thought might have accounted for his subsequent shaky appearance on television. He reached the briefing podium at 4:14 p.m.

In a voice cracking with emotion, he told the nation and the world: "I just wanted to touch upon a few matters associated with today's tragedy. First, as you know, we are in close touch with the vice president, who is returning to Washington.... We have informed our friends abroad of the situation, the president's condition, as we know it [is] stable, now undergoing surgery. And there are absolutely no alert measures at this time that we're contemplating."

Haig was then asked who was making decisions for the government at the time, and responded, "Constitutionally, gentlemen, you have the president, the vice president and the secretary of state, in that order, and should the president decide he wants to transfer the helm to the vice president, he will do so. He has not done that. As of now, I am in control here, in the White House, pending return of the vice president and in close touch with him. If something came up, I would check with him, of course."

Haig's appearance astounded Baker and Meese, who were watching at the hospital. And it flabbergasted Haig's colleagues in the Situation Room, none of whom had been consulted before he left on his self-appointed mission.

"What's Al doing up there?" asked Lewis.

Weinberger, returning from his telephone call to Jones, looked up and saw Haig on the screen and asked, "Why are they running that old tape of Al Haig?"

It's not a tape, he was told. Haig's up there.

"He can't be, he was right here," said Weinberger, still disbelieving. As he watched, Haig told reporters in the briefing room that no change in military alert procedures was contemplated.

Weinberger knew that this was untrue because he had just ordered the increased state of readiness, but had done so without telling Haig.

When Haig returned to the briefing room, Weinberger was waiting. In a dramatic moment of angry but controlled confrontation, Weinberger demanded that Haig explain why he had said what he had in the briefing room. The two men kept their voices down, but their differences were clear and sharp. Despite Haig's announcement, Weinberger told him, he had increased the readiness of American military forces.

"That's just what I said we weren't doing," Haig said.

"I didn't know you were going up there," Weinberger replied, adding that he didn't think it "was appropriate" for Haig to be going before the television cameras in the manner he had done. For good measure, he also said that Haig had misstated the order of presidential succession, prompting Haig to respond: "You should read the Constitution."

Afterward, both Haig and Weinberger would try to minimize the exchange, which lasted only a few minutes. Haig responded to criticisms of his appearance by saying that he was winded from running up the stairs.

"I may have been quivery, but I've been through 50 times worse than that," he said.

At the Hospital

At the hospital, Haig's impromptu briefing was one of the bad moments for the watching White House aides. An even worse one came in the press room when the television networks incorrectly announced Brady's death. Some aides were furious. Others wept silently as they continued to work.

Baker, however, knew better than the networks. He had just had a report that Brady was holding his own, and he called the Situation Room and told them to disregard the report. Hospital interns who heard the reports asked the surgeon operating on Brady if he hadn't heard that his patient was dead.

At about 4:30 p.m. former president Richard M. Nixon called the hospital, asking for Nancy Reagan. She was unable to come to the telephone, but Baker did.

"Please convey my concern that I know is shared by all Americans," Nixon said.

At 5:20 p.m. the bullet was removed from the president and the

medical reports were positive. Baker called the Situation Room and told them they didn't have to worry themselves any more with the 25th Amendment.

Meese called the vice president, whose plane was still an hour out of Washington.

Cradling the phone in his cabin after he received the news, Bush turned to his aides and said, "The bullet's been removed. The operation was a success. The president is fine."

It was now agreed at the hospital that the president's top aides should split up. And it was also agreed that any further briefings on the president's condition should be by the doctors, even though this meant keeping the press waiting for another hour.

Deaver and Nofziger, whose experience was an asset in White House press relations, remained at the hospital, where Nofziger related the first of the Reagan jokes in surgery. Meese

went to the vice president's residence to brief Bush upon his arrival.

Meese met Bush at the residence, and together they rode in an armored limousine back to the White House. Meese had sent a helicopter for the vice president to Andrews Air Force Base, and a Bush aide had suggested that the chopper fly directly to the White House.

"No, I don't want to do that," Bush said. "Only the president flies onto the South Lawn."

It was 7 p.m. when Bush arrived in the Situation Room. In rapid-fire order Allen ticked off an agenda that had been discussed previously: the president's health, an update on the world intelligence situation, the status of U.S. military forces, the status of what the press and public had been told, the status of information given privately to members of Congress, the outlines of the statement which had been drafted for Bush, the question of

whether it was appropriate for Bush to visit Reagan at the hospital, information about Mrs. Reagan and the family, the cancellation of Bush's planned trip to Geneva and an update on the next day's schedule, which Bush would fulfill.

At 7:30 p.m., with Brady still fighting for his life, Dr. Dennis O'Leary, clinical dean of George Washington, briefed the press.

At 8:45 p.m., Meese, Baker and Weinberger met in Baker's office for a drink and a discussion of the next day.

At about this time, Nancy Reagan left the hospital with their son, Ron, and his wife, Doria. In a corridor, she encountered the parents of the wounded Secret Service agent, and said gratefully that their son had saved her husband's life. McCarthy's father sobbed. Then, on the ground floor, she met Brady's mother, Dorothy.

"Hi, Nancy," said Mrs. Brady, in a manner that was strikingly composed, "We are just praying for both of them."

Nofziger remained at the hospital to brief reporters on Brady. At 9:30 p.m. he gave the first relatively optimistic report on Brady's condition.

At 8:50 p.m. the president, with the anesthesia worn off, scribbled a note to his doctors in the recovery room.

"All in all, I'd rather be in Philadelphia," it said, in the words of a famous movie line by W.C. Fields.

Everyone laughed. When the message was relayed to the Situation Room, Smith said, "I know he's going to be all right."

At 3 a.m. Tuesday, the tubes in Reagan's mouth were removed. The president's first words were about his assailant.

"Boy, what's his beef?" Reagan asked.

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An Aimless Road to a Place in History

By Neil Henry and Chip Brown
 Washington Post Staff Writers

John Warnock Hinckley Junior, the man accused of shooting the president outside a Washington hotel, was born in 1955 and grew up in the Highland Park section of North Dallas in a community known as The Bubble.

The Bubble was built in the early 1900s as a haven for the wealthy. It is a place where housing prices start at \$200,000 and the outside world seldom intrudes on the lives of governors and silver barons who reside there. The emphasis on money, status and success is implicit in designer shirts and midwinter tans from skiing vacations at Vail.

This is a community of achievers, people who have arrived and who are protective of their privileges. Nine out of 10 parents hold college degrees. An even higher percentage of their children go on to college. But no matter how far afield

they range, most seem to aspire to return to The Bubble.

To be young here means having a car, spending Christmas vacation in the Caribbean, and being able to buy penny loafers or Topsiders in 10 different colors. On any given day, a Rolls Royce or two idles outside Highland Park High School, where students show up early just to gossip in their cliques and where prayers are said daily. Next to Christianity, football is the most widely practiced religion. "Football," said Gloria Hennings, a mother whose son was lucky enough to

make the team, "is like being on the inner cabinet of God."

John Hinckley was preceded at Highland Park High School by an older brother who went on to Vanderbilt University, once known as the Harvard of the South, and by an older sister whose beauty and popularity as a head cheerleader are still remembered by people who live in The Bubble.

John Hinckley didn't play football. He didn't excel in his studies. He didn't have girlfriends to squire to the Friday night pep rallies or the Saturday night parties or the football games at nearby Southern Methodist University. And he didn't go to Vanderbilt.

Instead, he left The Bubble to enroll at Texas Tech in Lubbock where he worked fitfully for seven years without getting a degree and lived in a series of apartments in which there was little else but rented TV sets, his guitar, empty ham-

burger bags, and a few pieces of furniture covered with the West Texas dust.

The evolution that began in The Bubble and was played out in the seediest sections of towns across the country climaxed in a violent moment one rainy spring afternoon in Washington. In a story that has aspects too absurd even for Hollywood — such as pawnshops called Snidely Whiplash and motels named The Golden Hours — John Hinckley left his childhood in a fairy tale suburb and embarked on a journey that was marked by alienation, a gun fetish and failure.

Failure to graduate from college. Failure to get a job. Failure to measure up to his brother and sister. Failure to connect with his father. Failure to distinguish life from art. And finally failure to be recognized in the affections of teen-aged movie star Jodie Foster, for whom he had developed a monumental obsession. His odyssey ended in what he thought would be the ultimate act of recognition.

CHAPTER 1: TEXAS ROOTS

John Warnock Hinckley Jr. was born May 29 in Ardmore, Okla., to Jo Ann and John Hinckley Sr. At the time, his brother Scott was 5, his sister Diane, 2. When John Jr. was 4 years old, the family moved to a house on Caruth Street in a community called North University Park about six miles north of the center of Dallas. It is the stepping stone into Highland Park, and together the two communities form the Park Cities which last November gave Ronald Reagan the largest vote of any Dallas suburb.

Hinckley's father, John Sr., was born and reared in Tulsa. His father died when he was 2. He studied engineering at the University of Oklahoma and, until he founded the company in 1970 that made him a millionaire, he worked for a number of small oil firms in Oklahoma and Texas. He was an archconservative who divided his interests between Christianity and free enterprise.

The Washington Post — **A-1**
 Washington Star-News
 Daily News (New York)
 The New York Times _____
 The Wall Street Journal _____
 The Atlanta Constitution _____
 The Los Angeles Times _____

Date **4-5-81**

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Charles V. Westapher, pastor of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, remembers the elder Hinckley and his wife as church leaders. "I don't think they ever missed a Sunday," he said. "The Hinckleys fit into the pattern of the parish — redneck Republican, ultraconservative, as I am. A solid family. I can see them in my mind's eye standing there with their children around them. There was nothing outstanding about John Jr. He wasn't an outstanding achiever. He was not in trouble. He just fades into the mist of time."

Young Hinckley played basketball and traded baseball cards with other neighborhood boys as a gradeschooler at Armstrong Elementary. But even then, there was such a sharp contrast with his siblings. He languished in their shadows. "He seemed to have an inferiority complex," said Toni Johnson, a neighbor. "He was always so quiet. He used to come over for vanilla wafers and he would help himself and not say a thing. The other kids would always talk more than him."

In 1966, the Hinckley family arrived in The Bubble, moving into a two-story yellow-brick house, with a swimming pool and a private Coke machine, in the heart of Highland Park. The house was set on Beverly Street among the mansions of millionaires such as silver magnate Herbert Hunt and Texas Governor Bill Clements. It was near the jogging path that parallels Turtle Creek and the azalea-lined streets that run past the Dallas Country Club where the elder Hinckley golfed on weekends.

Surrounded by Dallas, the residents in The Bubble have long been protected from social change, from life as

it is lived in most other towns and cities in America. Crime is minimal, and the town's police force spends much of its time simply cruising the streets to remind the residents of their safety.

After graduating from McColloch Middle School, Hinckley in 1969 entered Highland Park High School, which boasts such an excellent academic reputation that it is considered as good as many private preparatory schools. Over the years, it has produced such graduates as Bill Clements, who still lives in the neighborhood, Nobel-prize-winning physicist James Cronin, football stars Bobby Layne and Doak Walker and movie star Jayne Mansfield.

Religion dominates life in the high school as it does life in The Bubble. The school has a daily devotion, and at pep rallies, football players often come forward to offer extemporaneous prayers. At Highland, not only do students own their own cars, they consider those who don't abnormal. It is a school where social pressures are often more severe than academic pressures. Caste systems established at Highland Park continue for years afterward, in the form of sorority and fraternity groups in college and even in weekly bowling outings when students return to Highland Park to settle as adults.

When handsome, blond-haired John Hinckley entered Highland, his older sister Diane was emerging as one of the most successful students in the school. A pretty and exuberant Texas belle, Diane was chosen one of the eight outstanding seniors in 1971. She was a candidate for homecoming queen and head cheerleader at a school where students run for the title and are selected by popular vote. In the insular world of Highland Park, few achievements rank higher.

(Such an election is under way now and, in the main corridor of the school, taped to the trophy cases are handsome color portraits of the candidates with names like Missy and Stephanie and Gigi and Claire, whose smiles are as identical as their Izod Lacoste and Ralph Lauren shirts.)

Hinckley was never a part of this world. He achieved nothing remarkable and thus was condemned to obscurity. "He was normal," recalled classmate Beverly McBeath. "Nobody paid any attention to him."

In a school where normality was almost a curse, no one remembers Hinckley's attending high school weekend rituals or dating. Even though he was president of his ninth grade homeroom, he seems to have passed from freshman to senior year without leaving a trace. Highland Park yearbooks portray a succession of snapshots of a clean-cut, All-American kid, and they list his activities as Spanish Club, Rodeo Club and Students in Government. But no one who participated in those groups remembers him. His own classmates recall his older sister more readily.

Diane was married right out of high school in 1971. Hinckley's aunt, Avilla Bates, recalls him quietly sitting off to the side of the wedding ceremony at a Dallas Episcopal Church. Hinckley graduated in 1973. When his family left Dallas in 1974, and moved to an equally prosperous and protected life in an affluent suburb of Denver, he stayed in Texas to enroll at Texas Tech University in Lubbock.

CHAPTER 2: ALONE IN WEST TEXAS

The outsider moved to Lubbock in 1973, to a dusty, windswept college town in West Texas. There, at Texas Tech, an engineering-oriented university that accepts 99 percent of its applicants, he began a sporadic college career, dropping out at least three times, majoring in at least three different subjects, living in one nondescript garden apartment building after another. He started out interested in business administration, later majored in English, and still later developed a taste for history. But there are other things, more than the records at Texas Tech, that show how Hinckley had left The Bubble only to become enveloped in his own disconnected and lonely world.

He became a wanderer and an invisible man. Some local merchants, among the few townsfolk who remember him, recall that he would head out

each morning on a methodical stroll for a late-morning breakfast of cheeseburgers. They took note of this daily passage with the words: "Well, there goes old Hinky-Dinky." He seemed to have only a guitar and a series of rented black-and-white television sets. His apartments, according to the few people who visited him there, were barren, save for a few pieces of furniture, tightly drawn window shades, the inevitable dust and the bluish glow of the black-and-white.

There were former Highland Park classmates at Texas Tech, but they lost touch with Hinckley and never saw him on campus. He took a variety of college courses, including three journalism and three music literature classes, and his grades were good enough to keep him in school. One semester, the fall of 1977, he made the university Dean's List by maintaining an average of B or better.

But his college career was an unstained, scattershot thing spanning seven years and including three mysterious breaks. During at least one of these breaks, Hinckley ended up in the nation's movie capital.

As the nation prepared to celebrate its bicentennial in 1976, Hinckley left Lubbock and wandered to Hollywood, where he lived in Room 346 at Howard's Weekly Apartments on North El Centro Street. The green-stucco building was only about a mile from Hollywood and Vine streets, a corner symbolic of movie fame and success and money, but it might as well have been light years away.

Hinckley's part of town was tree-lined, sunny and relatively well cared for. It was also a haven for drugs, homosexuality and prostitution. Several other small apartment buildings for transients occupied the area and a row of small bars and pornographic bookshops was only a block away. The only tenant to remember Hinckley is Larry Ehmpke, a 51-year-old forklift operator who said the young man who lived across the hall from him five years ago had a heavy face, short hair and a mustache, but he doesn't remember ever speaking to him.

Very little is known of Hinckley's life in the underside of Hollywood, so many years and miles from The Bubble. Only in the paper trail of apartments leased and items pawned can traces of his existence be found. At a pawn shop called the Hollywood Collateral Loan Association, located only a few blocks away from Howard's Weekly Apartments, an employee went through shop records and found that Hinckley pawned a stainless steel watch for \$15 there in June 1976.

Four years later, on job applications he submitted to newspapers in Denver, Hinckley wrote that he had worked as bookkeeper for a publishing house in Dallas — which proved false when the paper checked — and for a photography studio in Los Angeles, in the summer of 1976. The owner of the studio for which Hinckley claimed he worked, Richard Ellis, said a young man closely resembling Hinckley appeared at his shop sometime in 1977.

"He seemed very young, perhaps a little out of high school. He said he wanted to take pictures of babies. But we don't do that kind of work and he didn't have a portfolio," said Ellis. "He said he had taken many pictures before and knew what he was doing, but when I began to ask him some questions it was clear he did not. He didn't even know the difference between depth of field and field of focus."

Eventually, Hinckley wandered eastward and again took up his studies in Lubbock. History professor Joseph King recalled Hinckley as the fellow who sat by himself in King's U.S. Economic History class. "While everyone else in the class exhibited a kind of camaraderie, he always sat alone, surrounded by empty chairs," said King, who gave Hinckley an A on a paper he wrote about American slavery. "Even during humorous moments, he continued to gaze at me attentively, taking notes."

Off campus at Texas Tech, the few persons who remembered seeing the withdrawn young man included a maintenance man who cleaned the apartment building in which Hinckley lived and the appliance dealer from whom he rented his televisions.

"His attitude and personality were strained," said Calvin Wynne, the maintenance worker at the University Arms apartment complex who spoke to Hinckley there twice last fall. "It seemed as though he had something on his mind. He wanted to talk about it, it seemed he wanted to find someone to tell it to. There was a nervousness about him. Hyperactive, is that what you call it? He moved about a lot. He got more anxious, more hyper as the conversation wore on, like he wanted to do something about it."

From January 1978 to July 29, 1980, Don Barrett, manager of an appliance rental store in Lubbock, rented Hinckley a television four times. Barrett said Hinckley had been in the office dozens of times, either renting or making his payments. "He would say hello and so forth but as far as initiating a conversation, he didn't," Barrett said.

Occasionally, the two men chatted about the Dallas Cowboys or the Texas Tech Red Raiders football teams, and Barrett recalled that Hinckley attended games.

"I never saw him with anyone, and I saw him quite a bit," the appliance dealer said. Each time, Hinckley rented either a 12-inch or 15-inch black-and-white television, depending on what was available. Twice, Barrett said, he visited Hinckley's apartment to deliver televisions, and found that the student had no silverware, little furniture and nothing on the walls of his room. His credit was good enough, though. Hinckley was able to rent a television on only his signature the last three times he dealt with Barrett.

The last day Hinckley returned a television set to the store he was short two dollars. Barrett said the young man dutifully ran off to collect the deficit. "John is honest," Barrett said. "If he walked in today, I would probably rent him a television set. When I heard he was in court in D.C. addressing the magistrate as 'yes sir' and 'no sir,' that sounded like John."

It isn't yet clear when, or even if, the drifting Texan joined the neo-Nazi membership of the American Socialist Party of America, another strange and twisted world in itself. Law enforcement officials and the Anti-Defamation League have no record of Hinckley ever belonging to the party. And his parents have said through friends that photographs showing someone resembling him in a Nazi uniform are in fact not pictures of their son.

According to leaders of the outfit, whose ideology includes the forced expatriation of blacks, Jews and avowed communists, Hinckley joined the party in 1978 while in Texas. Michael C. Allen, acting director of the extremist organization, claims he remembers Hinckley going to St. Louis to take part in a 1978 demonstration honoring the birth of George Lincoln Rockwell.

Allen remembers that Hinckley was "flustered" and "bothered" and wanted to "fight back," when several thousand anti-Nazi demonstrators ran the marchers out of the St. Louis park. "He liked being a stormtrooper," Allen said. "You have to like it to put on one of our uniforms and do the things we do. But we began to get reports that Hinckley wouldn't conform to our program. He kept trying to get people to go out and shoot people."

It got to the point, Allen said, where the strange young man he thinks was Hinckley was suspected by other members of being a federal undercover agent. In 1979, Allen said, the man was expelled. While Hinckley's connection to the party remains uncertain, it is known that he took a

course on Modern Germany in the summer of 1978 at Texas Tech and wrote papers on German concentration camps and "Mein Kampf," Hitler's autobiography.

In Lubbock, the owner of a used-book store said Hinckley visited him "four or five times" at the beginning of 1980. "He never talked much, which is unusual for any of my customers," said Lonie Montgomery. "He would go directly to that section where I had the World War II books and stand and go through the books and he stayed 30 minutes to an hour each time."

"The last time he was in, he bought the two-volume set of 'Mein Kampf.' I

couldn't understand why his type — the way he was dressed and all — could afford \$30 for a two-volume set. I didn't see him after that."

At the end of the second summer session last year at Texas Tech, Hinckley was dropped from the student rolls for nonpayment of fees.

CHAPTER 3: MOVIE STAR, GUNS

After Hinckley abandoned his college education in the summer of 1980, he turned to a new obsession that lured him north to New Haven and to other towns around the country. The drifter who had so few real friendships in his life had become involved in a fantasized relationship with movie starlet Jodie Foster.

In the fall of 1980, Foster entered Yale as an 18-year-old freshman. She published a breezy article in the college issue of Esquire which said she was trading the "disco dresses, People Magazine, and Santa Ana winds" of her starlet's life in Los Angeles for "good ol' New Haven grime" and the collegiate life at Yale University.

The magazine hit the stands Sept. 20, as Foster was settling into her room in the gothic brownstone Welsh Hall on Yale's Old Campus, a section reserved for freshmen. Knots of would-be suitors sometimes gathered and knocked on the dormitory door. Foster drew such attention that she took her name out of the phone directory and even moved into a motel for a while.

Before she had become a college student, Jodie Foster had made a dozen movies and in 1976 had been nominated for an Academy Award for her portrayal of a 12-year-old prostitute in Martin Scorsese's violent urban fable "Taxi Driver." In "Taxi Driver" an alienated ex-Marine and would-be assassin played by Robert De Niro masters a small arsenal of handguns, stalks a presidential candidate and in a climactic bloodbath rescues the young whore from New York's pornographic underworld.

At the beginning of the semester, Foster had received several letters from a man who signed his name as J.W.H. and John W. Hinckley. They expressed the stranger's love and devotion to her. The letters were a part of an incessant stream of fan mail she received. Foster threw them into the garbage.

Meanwhile in Lubbock, sometime in early September, Hinckley bought what was apparently his first gun, a blue steel .38 with a plastic checker-grip. He picked it up for \$86 at the Galaxy Pawn Shop. The handgun was assembled by RG Industries in Miami from parts imported from Germany.

A penchant for guns hardly strikes anyone as ominous in free-wheeling Lubbock, where some university students carry guns to class and the pistol-packing frontier Texas tradition runs deep and long. But Hinckley bought more guns. On Sept. 26, he visited the Snidely Whiplash pawnshop where he purchased two classic Saturday Night Specials — cheap .22-caliber handguns also made by RG Industries.

Sometime in early October, Hinckley set out for New Haven. He spent at least one night in the college town at the Colony Inn, signing his name and paying cash, according to manager Harry Gilbert, who is unsure of the exact date. A maid who cleaned Hinckley's room said she found several pictures of Jodie Foster in the bed linen which she threw away. A bartender at the Top of the Park bar in the Park Plaza recalls that a man he now thinks was Hinckley spent about three hours one day last fall drinking, bragging that Jodie Foster was his girlfriend, and showing bartenders clippings on the young actress.

On Oct. 7, Hinckley arrived at Nashville Metropolitan Airport on Delta Airlines and checked into the Opryland Hotel, 10 minutes from the terminal. For some reason, possibly because it was cheaper, Hinckley moved the next night to the Down-towner Hotel not far from the Tennessee State Capitol.

The next morning, Oct. 9, Air Force One touched down on the airport tarmac of the country music capital of the world and Jimmy Carter stepped out, headed for a "town meeting" and

a fund-raiser at the Opryland Hotel. Shortly before 1 p.m. on the 9th, three security guards stationed at a checkpoint gate on the south concourse saw a sandy-haired young man dashing toward them to catch a 1 p.m. flight to New York. He carried a small bag.

"I'm running late," he said, thrusting his bag forward. "You gotta put this through."

Evelyn Brannon of the Wackenhut Security Corporation motioned to Laura Farmer watching the airport luggage X-ray to check carefully. "He said he didn't have any guns," remembers Marjorie Pilkinton who watched the encounter. "The man was very nervous. He couldn't keep still."

As the conveyor carried the bag under the X-ray, Farmer discerned the metal shapes of firearms, and immediately beckoned Officer John Lynch. Lynch opened the bag and discovered a .38-caliber handgun and two .22-caliber pistols as well as handcuffs and a box of 50 hollow-point bullets.

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"He told me he wasn't aware of the laws of Tennessee that he couldn't carry guns without a permit," Lynch said. "He said he was sorry a couple of times." At 1:12 p.m. John W. Hinckley Jr. was arrested and charged with illegally carrying a weapon, a misdemeanor. Lynch took him downtown while another police officer telephoned the FBI in Nashville to notify them of the arrest. On the way to the station, Lynch recalls, Hinckley said he was returning to school at Yale University from his home in Texas and that he planned to give one of the guns to a friend, sell the second, and perhaps keep the third.

At the station, Hinckley appeared before Judge William Higgins who vaguely recalls the encounter. "There was something about him going to school, something about law enforcement," Higgins said. "That's what he said he was studying. To me it was a satisfactory explanation."

The guns, that were still in their factory boxes and had never been fired, were confiscated. Hinckley spent 30 minutes in a cell while a jail trusty processed his \$50 bond and the \$12.50 he had paid for court costs. Lynch drove him back to the airport. Hinckley caught a 5:20 flight to New York. The episode, law enforcement authorities now believe, was an experience that would persuade the young man to travel by bus the next time he desired to transport his guns.

Four days later, Hinckley had returned to Texas. He walked into Rocky's Pawn Shop on 2018 Elm Street on the east end of downtown Dallas. The bumper sticker plastered over the front door reads "Guns Don't Cause Crime Anymore Than Flies Cause Garbage." Hinckley bought two RG 14 .22-caliber pistols like the ones that had been confiscated in Nashville. The serial number on one of the Saturday Night Specials was L-73132. Almost five months later, at 3:30 p.m. on March 30, Isaac (Rocky) Goldstein, the 70-year-old owner of Rocky's, got a call from agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms who said the gun had been used in an attempt to assassinate President Reagan.

CHAPTER 4: DENVER, THE FAMILY

After he purchased two handguns from Rocky's Pawn Shop, John Hinckley traveled to Colorado where his family had resettled in a Denver suburb. This was the start of a five-month period in which Hinckley spent time in squalid motels, when he could have been in his parents' luxurious house, and haunted a high school he had never attended. He applied for jobs, and his father at one point even took cheer in his aimless son's apparent resolve to settle in the area and look for work.

But it came to nothing in Denver. As his brother Scott was groomed to take a seat on the board of his father's company, John stood in soup lines at a mission full of indigent vagabonds.

When John Jr. began his freshman year at Texas Tech, his father and mother moved out of The Bubble to Denver's most exclusive suburb, a

bedroom community of 20,000 called Evergreen. The Hinckley's ranch-style \$250,000 stone-and-cedar house was 25 miles outside the city, surrounded by snow-crested mountains and tall stands of ponderosa.

"Jack" Hinckley, as his colleagues know him, was now becoming a millionaire. Vanderbilt Energy Corporation, the small oil and gas prospecting firm he started in Dallas in 1970 and named after his son Scott's college, began to flourish once he moved its headquarters to Denver. What started as a \$120,000 investment was parlayed into a multimillion dollar company.

At Vanderbilt, son Scott had belonged to one of the top four fraternities and graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering. He was a popular, outgoing student in Nashville and carried that forward to the business world.

After working for several engineering companies, Scott Hinckley joined his father's firm several years ago and, like his father, exhibited drive and aggressiveness and keen business sense, enough to earn him the position of vice president of company operations. Last month, Scott Hinckley's contributions to the firm were rewarded when he was named to the firm's board of directors.

Scott Hinckley was a mirror image of his father, whose success story was classically American. A self-made man who started out in the oil fields of Oklahoma and Texas, Jack Hinckley was now lord of a prosperous enterprise and living in a nouveau riche mountain suburb that was essentially Denver's answer to The Bubble. And his values had been fully inherited by

"Jack, in a nutshell, is a typical mid-America Jack Armstrong all-American man," said Clarence Netherlands, acting chairman of the board for Vanderbilt. "A pleasant, aggressive, smart, nice-looking guy. Everyone likes Jack and always has."

"Scott," Netherlands said, "is very similar to his dad. Maybe not as effervescent as his dad, but self-confident. The two are very similar in personality, appearance and philosophies."

And like most self-made men, those philosophical and political leanings were conservative and Republican.

"He [Jack] was very happy with the fact that Reagan was elected," recalled a friend, Robert Ainsworth. "We kidded Jack about Reagan's election because we knew how much he liked him. We said, 'All the world's problems will be solved now that Reagan is in.' He laughed — he had a good sense of humor."

In fact, it seemed Jack Hinckley had it all. He played golf and skied in the mountains on weekends, he lunched downtown at the Petroleum Club and he had a son who was marching in his footsteps. His home overlooked the well-trimmed fairways of the Hiwan Country Club, where he, his wife and his son socialized with everyone who was anyone in Evergreen, including conservative brewing magnate Joseph Coors.

Still, as he was achieving so much success in the business world, something was lacking. About four years ago, Jack Hinckley went through a spiritual conversion. He turned more and more of the daily operations of his corporation over to his ambitious son Scott and became active in charity work.

"Before he went through the conversion process, he was just an aggressive businessman," said Ainsworth, director of a group of religious ministries for which Jack Hinckley did volunteer work. "His goals were to make the family business grow, to be a success, to have a nice house and three cars in the garage. He said he just got turned off by that and tried to find something new. He said he began a conversion process to bring a new direction to his life. He just no longer saw chasing a dollar bill as a proper objective in life."

The objects of Jack Hinckley's religious efforts were two disparate organizations. The first was a small Denver mission for alcoholics, derelicts and other indigent lost souls. The Chapel Mission was located in the rundown underbelly of Denver only a

5 blocks away from the corporate headquarters of Vanderbilt. Jack Hinckley grew interested in the mission and its lonely people and openly contributed his time there.

In the very same period in which his business began to boom, Jack Hinckley, occasionally accompanied by Scott Hinckley, ventured to the mission after work and on Saturdays and Sundays, and stood there pouring coffee or offering prayers and doughnuts to the line of poor ragged men.

Jack Hinckley's experiences at the mission, his exposure to human suffering there, "began to open his eyes," as one associate, Robert Latta, put it. Eventually, Hinckley turned his attention to another organization, World Vision International, a large humanitarian organization that raises funds and specializes in aiding developing countries.

About 2½ years ago, Jack Hinckley volunteered his services to World Vision after hearing a speech in downtown Denver given by an official of the organization. Since then, he has contributed money and his expertise in oil and water drilling to Third World countries through that ministry. During a trip last year to Africa and South America, Jack Hinckley shared his most hidden fears and feelings of guilt about his troubled younger son.

"We agreed before the trip that we would pray together each morning for half an hour," said Ainsworth, who accompanied Hinckley on the journey. "We initially shared our mutual concerns about our families and flaws. I became a close friend of his, intimate. When you're thrown together like we were, you tend to let down the facade we all carry with us every day."

"He would confide in me his prayers. He asked me to pray for his son John, primarily because he didn't have direction in his life. Not that he was afraid John would do something as horrible as what he has been charged with, but that he was worried about his son."

"He said the boy didn't have goals and was aimless. Jack said he wasn't able to communicate with his son as much as he wanted, that there just wasn't communication. And there wasn't an agreement as to what the underlying problem was. He said he had approached his son on a number of occasions but wasn't making any headway. He took his own share of responsibility and said he felt guilty about not being able to communicate well enough."

"The problems began long before Jack came close to the Lord. Jack knew he was partially responsible for that, somehow," Ainsworth concluded. "He felt the boy had just drifted away."

But Jack Hinckley's most poignant expressions of pain and sadness over his youngest child came late last October, when he and his wife hosted a dinner for Latta, a World Vision fund raiser.

"It was a lovely dinner, under candlelight," Latta recalled. "He took out a photo album and showed me pictures of his family. We talked briefly about each of his children. Basically, he had a big smile when he talked about the older son, who has been so successful in the business, and his daughter, who is happily married."

"But when he got to John, Jack's face dropped," Latta said. "He said, 'He's got some real problems that he's trying to work out for himself.' I didn't push it. I didn't really know what he meant then. But looking back, that dinner was right about the time his son was arrested in Nashville for carrying guns at the airport."

Of all the places John Jr. turned up on his travels through Denver, no one ever remembers seeing him at his father's company headquarters in a 26-story downtown office building. Jack Hinckley kept a picture of his wife and daughter on his desk, but no photographs of his sons.

An innkeeper recalls John Jr. staying at the Stonewall Motel in Denver sometime in October. On Oct. 20, he applied for writing or circulation jobs that paid more than \$4 an hour at both the Rocky Mountain News and The Denver Post. He gave his parents' address as home, and listed his skills as writing, proofreading and typing at 30 words a minute. He also

claimed work experiences — salesman in Hollywood, bartender in Denver, bookkeeper in Dallas — that proved to be either lies or exaggerations.

But the fact that he was looking for work gave hope to the father.

"Three years ago John Jr. came up in conversation in response to a question to Jack about his children," said Clarence Netherland, a friend of the Hinckleys for more than 25 years, and acting chairman of the board of Vanderbilt Energy. "He said, 'All the family's well except for John who's left home and picked up the guitar. He's started out to find a place in the music world. We don't know where he is or how to get in touch with him. John's been gone several weeks and not called home.' As a parent he was real concerned about where he was. I said, 'Man I hope he surfaces soon.'"

Around this time, John Hinckley was under the care of a Denver psychiatrist, according to the family, and was receiving medication. "His evaluation did not alert anyone to the seriousness of his condition," the parents would say five months later in a statement read by a lawyer.

Some of Jack Hinckley's friends didn't even know to ask about John. "I didn't even know he existed," said Mike Wootten, acting president and board member of Vanderbilt Oil.

On some of his visits to Denver, Hinckley hung around Evergreen High School even though he had never been a student there. "Some of my girlfriends in the ninth grade introduced me to John in 1975," said 19-year-old Nadine Birkey, an Evergreen graduate. "I thought John was in high school. I thought he was one of the guys. He was with the real popular guys. He seemed nice looking. He seemed real popular and real happy."

Netherland remembers that when he asked about the family in November, Jack responded: "Everything's fine. I'm real pleased that John is back in the Denver area looking for work. He's talking to the local papers trying to do some writing!" The father, recalls Netherland, was delighted. "I just commented that I hope he's back for good, and he said, 'I do too!'"

CHAPTER 5: THE OBSESSION

The New Year began under the shadow of John Lennon's early December death. On Jan. 21, Hinckley bought another gun, a .38, from George Gangler who used to be a salesman at a motorcycle and gun store in Denver.

"He just wanted a cheap .38," said Gangler, remembering that Hinckley seemed more interested in just owning a .38 than having a particular brand. He paid \$148.35 for a Charter Arms Undercover revolver. Hinckley now had a trio of handguns identical in caliber to the three seized in Nashville. And once again, apparently in late February, he set out for New Haven.

He reportedly checked into the Sheraton Park Plaza Hotel there on March 1 and stayed two nights. The hotel refuses to confirm whether he was a guest. Hinckley was seen on the afternoon of March 1 in a bakery called Lucibello's by two Yale students Allan Dailey and Steven Wentworth. Hinckley was buying cookies. They remember his saying, "Oh you guys go to Yale? My girlfriend goes there." He plucked a picture of Jodie

Foster out of a pocket. Wentworth - 6-
Dailey just laughed.

Hinckley made a graphic impression on a number of Yale students living in Jodie Foster's dorm. "I live at Welch and I have seen that guy Hinckley over here," said one. "He was here in March, hanging around outside the door. At first I thought he was a jock. You know, he was heavy and sort of greasy and he really didn't seem very bright. It was a little weird but there are always people hanging around here so we didn't pay much attention. But then I saw him again and he asked something like 'Does Jodie live here?' I thought, 'How strange.' Some of us made a joke about it and started calling him Mr. Toxic Shock. In a couple of days, he was gone and we sort of forgot about it."

In early March, Jodie Foster received three or four love letters signed J.W.H. and John W. Hinckley that had been slipped under her door. The persistence of the man caused her on March 6 to turn them over to her college dean. They were subsequently given to the Yale campus police and are now in the possession of the FBI.

By March 8, Hinckley was back in the West, following what seems to have been his restless backtracking pattern of cross-country travel. He checked into a grimy motel on Colfax Avenue called The Golden Hours. He wanted "a cheap place to stay" he said, and he got one. For \$74.20 a week, Room 30 upstairs in the squat weather-worn building looked out on billboards, a Ford dealership and a McDonalds. Traffic droned by without respite on the neon strip, and the air was sour with smells of exhaust. In the hallway, a tattered rubber mat covered the concrete floor.

His parents' mountain-view home was a 45-minute drive away, but no one at the motel knew that.

"He never talked about his past or about his family. To me, he was real lonesome. He always walked around with his hands in his pockets and his head down," recalled Stacey Aucourt, who works as a maid at The Golden Hours and regularly cleaned his room. "He never opened the curtains in his room. All day long they were closed."

For four days early in March, Hinckley showed up for dinner at the Denver Rescue Mission where his father and his brother a few years earlier had served coffee and doughnuts to the down-and-out.

"He was very neat," said Albert Arthur, assistant director of the mission. "That's one of the reasons I remember him. Here at the mission we usually see street people. That's the reason he stood out. Many of the men remember seeing him in the chapel. They remember him coming in with the guitar but they never talked to him."

U.S. Agents Find Hinckley Had Recent Shift to Violent Emotion

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 4 — Federal agents investigating the background of John W. Hinckley Jr., the suspect in the attempt to assassinate President Reagan, say they have found evidence of a sharp swerve toward violent emotion in the last six months.

This "stark change," they said, was reflected in his travels and private writings, including many that have not been made public.

But agents fanning out across the nation to piece together a day-by-day account of Mr. Hinckley's recent life have found indications in these writings that the choice of Mr. Reagan as the alleged target was a relatively recent urge.

The writings, and Mr. Hinckley's now well-publicized letters to the actress Jodie Foster, are a vital resource to the investigators because neither the suspect nor his family have permitted interviews, and six days of nationwide inquiries have apparently not turned up any recent confidants of Mr. Hinckley.

A profile of isolation, of insubstantial contact with other people, and of unexplained travels and silences has emerged in scores of interviews with investigators and individuals who crossed his trail.

The letters to Miss Foster describe his fantasized relationship with her and his need, as reported in a final letter, to effect "this historical deed," to kill the President.

An earlier letter, previously undisclosed, was slipped under Miss Foster's dormitory door at Yale University in

early March, three weeks before Mr. Reagan was shot. It did not mention Mr. Reagan, but it contained such passages as: "After tonight, John Lennon and I will have a lot in common." Mr. Lennon, the musician and composer, was shot to death Dec. 8.

Mr. Hinckley's reported obsession with Miss Foster may have gone to the extent of telephoning her and tape recording what Federal agents describe as the impersonal "idle chatter" of a movie star and fan. The F.B.I. found a tape in his hotel room after the shooting.

Associate Attorney General designate Rudolph W. Giuliani, who is directing the investigation, would say only that thus far the evidence indicated Mr. Hinckley acted alone.

"There is no suggestion of a conspiracy thus far," Mr. Giuliani said. "The F.B.I. is investigating that possibility along with all others."

Government investigators are wary of repeating the history of other assassination inquiries, notably the Warren Commission investigation into the slaying of President Kennedy that has been followed by chronic theories of conspiracy and complaints of slipshod methods.

Federal agents are focusing on a six-month period of increased travel by Mr. Hinckley that includes several key events:

¶Mr. Hinckley's arrest at the Nashville airport on charges of carrying concealed firearms on Oct. 9 when President Carter was in that city.

¶Three different trips to New Haven that Mr. Hinckley made to be near Miss Foster, according to his writings, which then began to show a link between his fantasy of unrequited love and an alleged urge to shoot the President.

¶The purchase of three fresh guns four days after Mr. Hinckley's initial supply was confiscated in Nashville.

¶Mr. Hinckley's three-day cross-country bus ride from Los Angeles to Washington, followed by the wounding of the President and three other men and by his arrest.

When Mr. Hinckley was seized outside the Washington Hilton Hotel, his long period of obscurity and wandering came to an end. By now a rough portrait of John W. Hinckley Jr. has been drawn: He was another in the category of loners, possessed of guns, found in hindsight to have been smoldering with the sort of resentment that has driven some people to stalk America's highest symbol of authority.

The First Hurried Identifications

In a matter of hours from the instant when the President flinched from the gunfire, different people around the country offered the first hurried identifications of Mr. Hinckley. They talked of the son of a Denver oil executive, a mostly nondescript dropout from social routine, an individual easily forgotten, a man whose life was marked in private by psychiatric troubles and in public by a reported involvement with neo-Nazis.

In these initial attempts at assembling a biography, Mr. Hinckley has emerged from a patchwork of recollections as a basically secretive individual who nevertheless trailed signals of violent intent.

Criminal investigators and news reporters hurrying back on his trail have collected glimpses of a man moving alone through the roadside culture of plain motel shelter and junk food subsistence, squirrelling away news clippings about the slayings of President Kennedy and John Lennon, keeping so much to himself that the record thus far is devoid of any reports of substantial conversations involving him.

At the same time investigators have found Mr. Hinckley almost flaunting menace at such crucial points as when he was arrested for allegedly carrying guns in his baggage up to the X-ray machine at Nashville Metropolitan Airport Oct. 9 during the Carter visit.

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John Hinckley Jr. Withdrew As His Relatives Prospered

This story was prepared by Washington Star staff writers Bob Gettlin, Fred Hiatt and Laurie McGinley.

For John W. Hinckley Jr., the slide from a normal boyhood to a lonely, tortured life began in adolescence. A pudgy, shy and aimless teen-ager, he didn't seem to fit into the wealthy, successful Hinckley family.

In elementary school, he had been a happy, well-adjusted kid who liked to play basketball and go to the movies in downtown Dallas on Friday nights. As an adult, he became a buyer of handguns, was enamored of the neo-Nazi movement and developed an obsession with a teen-age actress.

But long before Monday, when Hinckley's grim inward path brought him to the Washington Hilton Hotel where he allegedly tried to assassinate the president, his parents rarely mentioned their youngest child — even to relatives.

"I've never met their youngest son," said Jack Bates, Hinckley's un-

cle who lives in Tulsa, Okla., but visits the Hinckley's at their luxurious home in Evergreen, Colo., once a year. "I've talked to his parents regularly over the years, but John Jr.'s name has hardly come up in our conversations."

John Warnock Hinckley Jr., 25, began to fade into the background — both in school and at home — about 10 years ago, during his sophomore year at Highland Park High School in suburban Dallas.

His blonde, blue-eyed sister, Diane, was head cheerleader and one of the most popular senior girls. His older brother, Scott, was attending Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., busily preparing to join his father, John W. "Jack" Hinckley, in the energy industry.

The patterns seemed to have been set a decade ago. Diane, now 28, later married an insurance underwriter in Dallas, and recently presented her delighted parents with the first Hinckley grandchild. Scott, now 30, returned to Evergreen to help his father build an oil and gas exploration firm into a profitable enterprise, and is now the vice president of operations.

As his brother and sister became increasingly successful, John Jr. grew withdrawn and alienated from his family and friends, according to more than two dozen interviews conducted by The Washington Star.

Jack Hinckley spoke proudly of Diane's child and Scott Hinckley's progress in the company, said Robert Kadane, a friend of the family. "There was really a twinkle in his eye . . . when he was talking about being a granddaddy," Kadane said. "But he never said a word about that son (John Jr.). I had no idea there was a younger son."

There was the occasion when Jack Hinckley mentioned his son while praying with fellow members of World Vision, a California-based Christian group that does work in developing countries. Hinckley traveled to East Africa last November as part of an emergency relief effort.

He prayed that John Jr., who a few months before had dropped out of Texas Tech University after studying sporadically for seven years, would find direction. According to Brian Bird, another member of the evangelical group, Hinckley said, "I have found direction in my Christian values, and I hope that my son could do the same."

"His father felt estranged from his son. But he had not lost all hope," Bird said.

Louise Griffith, a former neighbor of the Hinckleys in Dallas, said that she had received a Christmas card with news of the children every year since the family moved to Colorado. "But in the last few years, there was no mention of John Jr.," she said.

Jack, the father, a native of North Carolina who grew up in Tulsa, Okla., was a 1945 graduate of the University of Oklahoma in Norman. He worked as a professional engineer for 25 years before starting his own oil and gas exploration firm.

Begun in 1970 with \$120,000, the Vanderbilt Resources Corp. was named after Vanderbilt University, where Scott was attending school. Friends say the firm was a "one-man shop," built from the ground up by Hinckley and his wife, JoAnn, who worked as a secretary.

In 1975 Hinckley moved his firm to Denver, partly because he loved cross-country skiing in the Rocky Mountains. The company had some initial financial problems. The firm, now called Vanderbilt Energy Corp., has net assets of \$9.4 million, according to a company spokesman. The Hinckley family, including John Jr., owns 6.9 percent of the firm's 2 million shares of stock.

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(The Washington Star on Thursday reported that the Denver-based firm is under investigation by the U.S. Department of Energy for an alleged overcharge which occurred some time between 1973 and January 1981 when oil price controls were in effect.)

The Hinckleys, who settled in the exclusive Denver suburb of Evergreen, became increasingly active in religious groups, including a local Bible study group. Bird said the pair became "committed Christians" two years ago, after Jack "felt he didn't get enough satisfaction just getting wealthy and going to the country club. He felt a void spiritually."

The Rev. Charles Blakeslee, pastor of the Church of the Transfiguration in Evergreen, said the Hinckleys left the church two years ago to join the more conservative Church of the Hills. "They were Bible fundamentalists, and they just didn't like our interpretation of the Bible," he said.

In Dallas, where their children grew up, the Hinckleys stressed hard work, manners and religion, friends say.

Like his older brother and sister, John was a well adjusted, popular kid, according to those who knew him at Hyer Elementary School in Highland Park, Texas.

"He appeared to be a very happy little boy, outgoing, with lots of friends," recalls a former YMCA basketball coach who said Hinckley was one of the best players on the team. "He was really cute, with big blue eyes and blond bangs, and he wasn't a troublemaker or a bully."

Hinckley, like many of his friends, played "Y" basketball in fourth, fifth and sixth grades and football in the fifth grade. He was one of the few left-handed players on the basketball team, and he used it to his advantage, friends recalled.

He spent weekends taking the bus into town with friends, going to movies and shops. In summer, he swam and played tennis with children his own age at the Dallas Country Club. "He was always out there with us," said Cathy Warren, a former Highland Park resident. "He was just like the rest of us."

Hinckley was elected president of his homeroom in seventh and ninth grades at Highland Park Junior High School.

But then things began to change.

As a sophomore in Highland Park High School, he stopped going out with old friends. He didn't participate in high school sports, either as a player or a spectator. He rarely frequented the pizza and ice cream shops patronized by other students. He began going home to practice the guitar, although he seldom played for friends.

"I started taking an interest in and we started to go our separate ways," said a friend who had known him since the fourth grade. "He never seemed to have a steady, like everybody else did in those days, and he didn't seem to come to our parties much."

"He withdrew a lot, he became very introverted," said a student who was a few years older than Hinckley. "It began sometime in eighth or ninth grade, and just got worse every year. He became pretty much of a loner."

In high school, there was a marked contrast between John Hinckley and his sister, Diane. "To know Diane and to know John, you wouldn't believe they were from the same family," said Melinda Walling, a former classmate of John Hinckley's who lives in Norfolk, Va. "All the guys wanted to date Diane, she had a nice figure, she was very popular."

Diane, "a super person," according to friends, was a homecoming queen candidate and voted one of the four most popular senior girls. "I was just happy that she said hello to me," said Cathy Warren, a sophomore when Diane was a senior. "It was her big year."

Scott Hinckley also had done well at Highland Park High. By the time he graduated, he had earned a varsity letter in tennis and served on student council.

At Vanderbilt University, he was active in fraternity life, and earned a degree in engineering, like his father three decades before.

John Hinckley, meanwhile, attracted little attention in high school, although he belonged to the Spanish, rodeo and students in government clubs. He did create a stir, Walling remembers, when he once wore a wig to cover hair too long for the school's rigid dress code.

Hinckley graduated with an undistinguished but acceptable scholastic record, and enrolled at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. Although as many as 50 of the 350 students from his senior class went to Tech, few ever saw him there.

For seven years, he dropped in and out of school, switched his major from business administration to arts and sciences, and finally dropped out for good in the summer of 1980.

Texas Tech history professor Joe King remembers Hinckley as a "quiet and introspective, but good student" who liked to sit apart from other members of the class on U.S. economic history. "He never expressed political views," said King. "I don't remember that he ever said anything, but he did above average work."

During his days as a student, he joined a neo-Nazi party in Texas. He later was expelled because he was "too militant, always talking about going out and shooting somebody," said American Nazi leader Michael Allen.

Clad in ragged Levis, his hair stringy and dirt, Hinckley perused books and histories of Nazi Germany, eventually buying a \$30, two-volume set of Hitler's "Mein Kampf" at Montgomery Used Books Store in Lubbock.

"He just ignored everybody when he was in the store, he was so engrossed in reading certain passages," said proprietor Lonie Montgomery.

Hinckley's parents became increasingly worried. "They had a concern for the fact that John was not following his older brother into the

business," said Bates, who is married to Diane Hinckley. "John was in college for seven years, and he never even finished."

After Hinckley left school, his fondness for guns and infatuation with actress Jodie Foster, who played a teen-age prostitute in the bloody movie "Taxi Driver," took him in entirely new directions.

During the fall of 1980, he wrote Foster several love letters and followed her around the Yale University campus in New Haven, Conn., where she had enrolled as a freshman. In September, he bought two .22-caliber revolvers and a .38 gun from Lubbock pawn shops. The guns were confiscated in October at the Nashville airport as Hinckley boarded a plane. At the time, President Jimmy Carter was in town campaigning. Then-candidate Reagan had been scheduled to visit Nashville two days before but canceled at the last minute.

Hinckley bought two RG-14 .22-caliber revolvers from Rocky's Pawn Shop in Dallas Oct. 13, 1980. That was three days after his other guns had been confiscated in Nashville. One of the guns allegedly was used in the assassination attempt.

Hinckley also purchased a Charter Arms .38-caliber revolver for \$148.35 from a shop called Kawasaki West in Lakewood, Colo., a city of 113,000 on the western edge of Denver.

In addition, he reportedly bought guns in California. He had a receipt in his pocket for a gun purchased at a California gun shop when he was arrested after last Monday's shooting of President of Reagan and three others.

Last summer, after dropping out of school, Hinckley dropped in and out of his parents' house in the wealthy country club community of Evergreen. But friends never saw him at home or at the club where his parents and brother played golf.

A few young adults in Evergreen remember the man suspected of shooting Reagan as a heavyset, listless person who knew almost nobody in town but occasionally came into town to drink at the local bar, the Tree Frog, or to buy guitar strings. Bartenders remember that he followed the local punk rock group, the Kamikaze Clones.

On March 8 Hinckley checked into the modest Golden Hours Motel, located along a strip of fast-food restaurants, used car lots and aging motels in a suburb west of Denver.

Just as many of his parents' friends did not know of John Jr.'s existence, those who knew Hinckley at the motel had no idea he had family in Colorado, and never suspected that his parents lived in affluent Evergreen.

On March 11, "Taxi Driver," starring Foster and Robert DeNiro, was playing in downtown Denver's Ogden theatre, not far from the Golden Hours Hotel. The theater's proprietor was not sure if Hinckley had been there to see the movie - which played in a double feature along with "Mean Streets." But one Justice Department source said investigators who interviewed Hinckley after his arrest said the suspect seemed to have fallen in love with Foster after her appearance in "Taxi Driver."

Hinckley last spoke with his parents about a week before before his arrest outside the Washington Hilton Hotel where Reagan was shot. He had called his mother and said he wanted to leave his 1977 white Plymouth Volare at his parents' house, because he was going to California to look for a job and be with friends.

Before leaving for California he had obtained a prescription for 70 extra Valium tablets, saying he would be out of town for two months.

His parents had known for some time John had problems and recently arranged for him to get psychiatric help.

"Obviously, he is a very sick young man," said William Sells, a neighbor in Evergreen. "But nobody realized the depth of his sickness."

FBI eyes Hinckley as possible tracker of Ron, Carter in '80

By JOSEPH VOLZ

Washington (News Bureau)—The FBI said yesterday it is investigating the possibility that John W. Hinckley Jr., the man accused of trying to assassinate President Reagan, may have stalked both Reagan and then-President Jimmy Carter during last fall's presidential campaign.

So far, FBI agents have found that Hinckley, 25, the son of a wealthy Colorado oilman, had been in Chicago and Nashville, Tenn., about the time Carter was there last October. Hinckley was on his way to New York on Oct. 9 when he was arrested at the Nashville airport as he tried to board a commercial flight with three handguns and 50 rounds of ammunition in his bag, authorities reported. Both Carter and Reagan were to appear in New York a few days after that.

Up to now, however, the FBI says it has not found any solid evidence that Hinckley said or wrote anything about harming any President until a few hours before the shooting of Reagan last Monday. An unmailed letter to 18-year-old movie star Jodie Foster, with whom Hinckley apparently was infatuated, was found in the suspect's Washington hotel room after the shooting.

"I would abandon this idea of getting Reagan in a second if I could only win your heart and live out the rest of my life with you," Hinckley wrote.

BESIDES THE LETTER, FBI agents searching Hinckley's room at the Park Central Hotel here found a tape recording of a telephone conversation Hinckley apparently had with a woman—possibly Foster, now a student at Yale University. Exactly what was said on the taped phone call could not be learned immediately.

The starlet said at a press conference that she had never spoken to Hinckley. FBI officials noted that because she is a prominent figure, con-

stantly being besieged by strangers, it is likely that she would have trouble recalling months later contacts with people like Hinckley.

Hinckley's travels around the country in the months before he checked into the Park Central Hotel last Sunday, the day before the assassination attempt, are becoming increasingly interesting to investigators. His personality and actions appear to fit the pattern of such loners as Arthur Bremer, the would-be assassin of former Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace, and Sirhan Sirhan, the man who shot Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. And like the pre-shooting movements of Bremer and James Earl Ray, the assassin of the Rev. Martin

Luther King Jr., Hinckley's travels around the country become of major interest to investigators.

So far, investigators have found that:

- Last September or October, Hinckley bought a .38-caliber and two .22-caliber pistols in Texas, where he had attended Texas Tech University off and on for seven years without graduating.
- He apparently was in Chicago on Oct. 6 or 7. Carter made campaign appearances on Oct. 6 at a downtown Chicago plaza and at the Palmer House Hotel.
- Hinckley flew to Nashville on Oct. 7, arriving in the late afternoon and checking into the Opryland Hotel, where Carter was scheduled to address a fund-raising reception two days later. Reagan originally had been scheduled to be in Memphis, Tenn., on the same

day, but canceled out.

• Carter was on Hinckley's mind at that time, said a Nashville cab driver, who told investigators he had driven Hinckley to the Opryland Hotel. The cabby reportedly said that Hinckley had asked what the driver thought of Carter and if he had seen the film, "Taxi Driver," which starred Foster and Robert De Niro. In that 1976 movie, De Niro plays a lonely psychotic who plots to kill a political candidate.

• On the morning of Oct. 9, about 30 minutes before Air Force One was due to touch down at a National Guard section of the Nashville airport, Hinckley checked out of his hotel. Carter began a speech at noon before a crowd of more than 2,000 at the Grand Ole Opry House, the famed country music showplace, which is next to the Opryland Hotel. It is not clear just where Hinckley was at that point.

• An hour later, at about 1 p.m., Hinckley was arrested at Nashville airport for carrying three handguns and 50 rounds of ammunition. Nashville police say he had a ticket for New York and was going through the boarding gate metal detector when he was nabbed.

• The unmailed letter to Foster found in Hinckley's Washington hotel room mentioned that "for the past seven months" he had been trying to win her attention and affection. He talked of committing "an historic deed to win your respect and love."

Hinckley is being held in isolation at the federal correctional facility at Butner, N.C., undergoing extensive psychiatric tests. On Friday, he received his first visit from his parents since he was charged with attempting to kill Reagan.

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Two of a kind

By FRANK VAN RIPER

BOTH WERE LONERS who apparently stalked their prey. Both embraced right-wing causes. Both drifted in and out of work and trouble. Both managed to shoot their intended victims. But miraculously, neither victim died.

John Warnock Hinckley Jr., Arthur Herman Bremer.

The events of last Monday eerily mirrored those of May 15, 1972, when Bremer, 21, stuck a handgun through a crowd of reporters, photographers and onlookers and fired into George C. Wallace as the former Alabama governor campaigned for President in a shopping center in Laurel, Md.

Wallace was permanently paralyzed. Bremer was quickly subdued and taken into custody. He was convicted of shooting and crippling Wallace and is now serving a 63-year prison term at the

maximum security Maryland Correctional Institution in Hagerstown.

Hinckley, 25, is being held at the federal correctional institution at Butner, N.C., where he underwent mental tests.

The lives of Hinckley and Bremer appear to have been parallels of quiet desperation, punctuated by erratic behavior and occasional rage.

In both cases, investigators discovered rambling writings littering the would-be assassins' rooms. "My country tiz (cq) of thee, sweet land of bigotry..." Bremer wrote in a diary. "Just call me a canoe; my mother liked to paddle me a lot."

"Don't say 'colored,'...say Negro...Here's a brightly Negroed card...sex is fun if you can integrate with me."

And with Hinckley, of course, there were the letters of frustration and tormented affection to actress Jodie Foster, who appeared in the 1976 movie "Taxi Driver"—a movie that screenwriter Paul Schrader says was based, ironically, on Bremer.

Outwardly, even their appearance was the same at the time of the attacks: stocky blonds with vacant stares and quirky manners.

Today, Bremer, part of the "regular prisoner population" at Hagerstown, is a haggard-looking balding man of 30 whose loss of weight has sunken his cheeks.

"He mostly keeps to himself," said Maj. Arley Crist, assistant shift commander, even though he no longer is kept in isolation.

And, Crist says, Bremer keeps on writing.

Frank Van Riper covers politics from The News Washington bureau.

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Yale Police Searched for Suspect Weeks Before Reagan Was Shot

By MATTHEW L. WALD

The Yale University police tried to find John W. Hinckley Jr. in New Haven three weeks before Mr. Hinckley allegedly shot President Reagan "to ask him not to bother" the actress Jodie Foster, who is a Yale freshman, a university spokesman said yesterday.

Notes signed John W. Hinckley Jr. "appeared to have been delivered by hand" to Miss Foster, the spokesman said. She turned the notes over to a dean on March 6. The dean, Eustace Theodore, gave them to the campus police on March 9, three weeks before the assassination attempt last Monday.

"A check through the local police department proved negative, and the attempt to find the writer was not successful," the Yale spokesman said. The spokesman would not disclose what other efforts were made to find Mr. Hinckley, who stayed at two hotels near the campus on separate visits in February and March, according to hotel records and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The spokesman would not say where the notes were delivered. Miss Foster, like all undergraduates, has a box at Yale Station, a post office. In addition, inside the front entrance to her dormitory are pigeonhole boxes, one for each room. According to some reports, the notes were slipped under her door.

Questions on Delivery of Notes

Attempts to reach Miss Foster by telephone and in person were unsuccessful yesterday. Miss Foster said on Wednesday that she had turned the notes over to the dean because of their frequency. She said she had been asked by the Federal authorities not to discuss their contents or method of delivery. She also said that

she had never met or spoken to Mr. Hinckley.

Federal investigators are looking into the possibility that Mr. Hinckley was acting out the role of the protagonist of the movie "Taxi Driver," in which Miss Foster played the part of a teen-age prostitute. The taxi driver stalks a politician, but ends up killing a pimp and several other men.

The Yale spokesman reiterated that the university had also been asked "not to release or discuss the language of the notes, so as not to interfere with the Government's prosecution of the case."

Believed to Be Harmless

However, apparently in response to questions about whether the campus police chief, Louis Cappiello, had erred in not giving the letters to the Federal Bureau of Investigation before the assassination attempt, the Yale spokesman said: "The notes were considered harmless and in themselves did not present any violation of local or Federal law."

"It must be emphasized that the significance of the notes did not become apparent until after the assassination attempt on March 30," the spokesman said. "Once the possible connection of the notes to the suspect became known, the university turned them over to the F.B.I."

That occurred last Tuesday morning, according to the university. The bureau first contacted Miss Foster on the previous evening, several hours after the shooting, the actress said on Wednesday. Earlier in the day, Federal agents found a letter intended for Miss Foster in Mr. Hinckley's hotel room in Washington.

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Legal 'Loophole' Used To Make Bizarre Bullets

By Howie Kurtz
and Bob Gettlin

Washington Star Staff Writers

The FBI's efforts to trace the little-known explosive bullets that wounded President Reagan and three other men have raised new questions about the ease with which ammunition is manufactured and sold without the knowledge of federal authorities.

The probe revealed, among other things, what one official called "a loophole" in the federal laws that govern the production of ammunition. The bullets were made by one company as ordinary .22 caliber shells, then modified by a second firm that inserted the explosive lead azide in their hollow center - a process that escaped the scrutiny of federal officials.

Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms said they knew a few hours after the shooting last Monday that accused presidential assailant John W. Hinckley Jr. had bought explosive-type bullets in the past, although they didn't know whether such bullets were used in the assassination attempt.

But despite three days of lab tests, FBI technicians were unable to identify the bullets taken from Reagan and Secret Service agent Timothy McCarthy until they could match them with the samples they finally obtained from the manufacturer in Georgia on Thursday.

FBI officials say they cannot rule out the possibility that the explosive bullet that wounded the president left a toxic lead compound in his body, but they said the chances were slim and that Reagan was in no danger.

BATF officials say they promptly notified the Secret Service about the possibility that explosive bullets were used, and the FBI says it has kept the White House informed about the matter. But no one, apparently, bothered to tell the president's doctors.

Dr. Benjamin Aaron, the surgeon who removed the bullet from Reagan's chest Monday evening at George Washington University Hospital, told reporters he didn't know there was any possibility that the imbedded bullet might explode until he read about it later in newspaper accounts.

he shells that allegedly were fired by Hinckley were made by the Cascade Cartridge Co. of Lewiston, Idaho, the FBI said. But they said the shells had been "modified" into explosive bullets by Bingham Ltd., a company in Norcross, Ga.

According to the FBI, the Bingham firm bought some of its long-range .22 caliber shells from Cascade. Bingham workers drilled a hole to expand the hollow cavity in each bullet's nose. Then they inserted a tiny cannister which they obtained from an unidentified firm in Wisconsin.

Under federal law, the Wisconsin firm is not considered a "manufacturer" of ammunition because it produces less than a quarter-ounce of explosive material for each bullet. As a result, the company does not have to be licensed by BATF or report its activities to federal authorities.

"That's where the loophole comes in, but they aren't breaking the law," one BATF official said.

The cannister that Bingham inserted in each bullet is filled with lead azide, a substance used in the blaster cap of explosives, and is covered with a lacquer coating that acts as a sealer, the FBI said.

Bingham itself is licensed as a manufacturer of ammunition, but FBI officials insisted they were unaware that the firm was making the so-called "Devastator" bullets. They said they examine 3,000 gun cases a year but didn't have a single file on the explosive-type bullets.

Both FBI and BATF officials visited Bingham's Georgia office several times last week, but there was some confusion about the investigation. All day Friday, BATF officials insisted that the bullets in question were manufactured by two other firms not mentioned by the FBI. When asked about the apparent con-

tradiction, BATF officials said only that this was "the best information we had" and referred further inquiries to the FBI.

Thomas Kelleher, chief of the FBI's laboratory division, told reporters Friday he had "no evidence" that the "Devastator" bullet which was removed from the president's chest had left any residue of lead azide in his body.

Even if small traces of lead azide from the bullet's hollow center have remained in the president's body, Kelleher said, the substance is "not extremely toxic to the point of causing death." He noted, however, that the substance could make a person sick.

FBI officials now believe that the bullet failed to explode before striking Reagan in the left lung, possibly because its path was slowed when it ricocheted off his limousine before hitting the president.

ed whether there was any possibility that the bullet might have exploded while surgeons were operating to remove it from Reagan's chest Monday evening. Kelleher said: "Conceivable, yes. Probable, no."

The FBI also analyzed the bullet that was removed from the neck of District Police Officer Thomas K. Delahanty Thursday night and confirmed that it too was a Devastator bullet which had failed to explode. Delahanty, 45, is in good condition after surgery at Washington Hospital Center.

Bureau officials said they notified Washington Hospital Center about the explosive bullet as soon as they made the identification.

A spokesman for Bingham Ltd. said the firm stopped making the Devastator bullets about eight months ago, but that the company still distributes exploding bullets for higher caliber weapons to about 2,000 private dealers around the country.

Bingham's owner, Sandy L. Brygider, said the bullet was "developed for defensive use.... It's a safe round to use and it is still effective." He said the bullet is used primarily by police officers, although other experts said they are too unreliable for police work.

An official at Cascade, now known as Omark Corp., said yesterday that the firm does not manufacture any explosive type bullets. But he could not say whether Bingham had bought the bullets from his firm.

The FBI said the bullet detonates only when it is traveling faster than 900 feet per second or exposed to temperatures hotter than 350 degrees Centigrade, but that the lead azide inside is chemically unstable and could be detonated by a sudden shock. The bullet "is not designed to kill by blast," Kelleher said. "It is designed to ignite on impact to aid in fragmentation."

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The FBI said the bullet removed from Reagan's chest had lost 5 grams, or about one-eighth its original weight, which raised the possibility that some of the lead substance remains in the president's body. But Dr. Dennis O'Leary, dean for clinical affairs at George Washington University Hospital, told reporters that he is "still looking for some information" about the exploding bullet. "The lead, as far as I know, is not a problem," O'Leary said.

FBI officials also said they believe that the Devastator bullet which struck White House press secretary James Brady in the head is the only one of the shots fired Monday that exploded into fragments upon impact. They said the projectile that wounded McCarthy had failed to detonate, noting that these bullets are of variable quality and frequently malfunction.

Several area gun dealers said yesterday they do not sell explosive bullets because, as one put it, "it's a lousy piece of ammunition. It's unreliable."

An ammunition expert at the National Rifle Association said that explosive bullets suffer from "poor quality control when they are manufactured and are only sold by the small companies because the major firms just don't get involved with them."

Nashville Gun Incident 'Did Not Flag Anything'

By Howie Kurtz

Washington Star Staff Writer

When William J. Beavers, the FBI's top agent in Tennessee, learned that a 24-year-old drifter had been arrested in Nashville with three handguns and ammunition on the same day then-President Carter was in town, he didn't think it was anything unusual.

"In some states, people feel they have to carry a firearm," Beavers said. "Right here in Tennessee we have people who ride around in trucks with rifles sticking out of their windows. Even elderly people carry them."

"It did not flag anything, at least to my man who took the complaint. We can look back in hindsight and say, yeah. But when all the facts are in, it won't look as bad as it seemed at first."

The seemingly aimless drifter, John W. Hinckley Jr., was arrested in Washington six months later and charged with trying to kill President Reagan with the same type of gun. Three others were wounded in the attack. But the FBI's failure to notify the Secret Service of Hinckley's ear-

lier arrest at the Nashville airport — less than two hours before then-President Carter was to leave town through the same airport — has raised again questions about the government's ability to anticipate potential threats to the president.

Secret Service Director H. Stuart Knight said last week that his agents would have tracked down Hinckley for questioning if the FBI had notified him about the airport arrest. But Nashville law-enforcement officials were not overly concerned when they discovered that Hinckley had tried to bring three handguns and 50 rounds of ammunition onto an outgoing flight.

In fact, Hinckley was charged only with a local misdemeanor and released after posting a \$50 bond and \$12.50 in court costs.

The incident occurred on Oct. 9, 1980, two days after candidate Reagan had been scheduled to make a campaign stop in Nashville himself, an appearance that was canceled only at the last minute. At 10:30 that morning, Carter arrived at Nashville airport and headed for Opryland, about six miles away. He was slated to return to the airport at 3 p.m.

A few minutes before 1 p.m., Hinckley missed the flight he was planning to take to New York, and was booked by an American Airlines employee on a second flight about to leave for New York. He was told to head for the gate and to carry his suitcase on board.

When he reached the metal detector at the terminal at 1:10, Hinckley was asked to put his suitcase on the conveyor belt that moves all carry-on luggage past an X-ray machine. When the X-ray picture revealed the weapons inside, the security woman on duty summoned an airport policeman who was standing about 30 feet away.

The security officer placed Hinckley under arrest, and while the youth appeared agitated, officials say he did not resist. Nashville Police Chief Joseph Casey said yesterday that Hinckley would not have been arrested if he had checked the weapons-laden bag in the plane's luggage compartment — an action that would not have broken any federal law.

"He was going to check the bag downstairs," Casey said. "If he had, no one would have known. But he was running late, so the airport people said, 'Take the bag with you.'"

Chief Reuben Utley, who heads the airport security force, also viewed the incident as minor. "He said he was running late and didn't have time to put it in the belly of the airplane," Utley said. "All people who are picked up with a weapon make some sort of excuse."

The security officer confiscated the ammunition along with two .22-caliber pistols and a .38-caliber handgun made by RG Industries. The Miami firm had assembled the guns from West German parts that were shipped into this country under a loophole in the law that bars the importation of cheap, foreign handguns. Hinckley later was carrying a similar RG .22-caliber gun when he allegedly shot the president.

Hinckley was taken before a local magistrate, where he was charged under a local statute and released after paying the magistrate \$62.50, the maximum penalty he could have been assessed. He forfeited that sum and the guns when he failed to return for trial.

"There was no indication that he was anything other than an ordinary passenger going in with a weapon," Chief Utley said.

"You can go down to the store and buy a box of ammunition anywhere in Nashville. There was no indication he even knew President Carter was in town at the time. We made 25 arrests here at the airport last year on gun charges. This was normal procedure."

That same day, Utley said, he notified the FBI's resident agent in Nashville, Ben Purcer, about the arrest. Purcer, in turn, passed the information to the FBI's Memphis office, where Beavers is the special agent in charge of the Tennessee region.

Beavers ordered his staff to com-

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pile a memorandum on the arrest, based on the information provided by the police, and he placed it in his office file. The memo remained there, untouched, for the next six months.

Asked whether he had seen any possible connection between Hinckley's arrest and Carter's visit to Nashville that day, Beavers said: "I don't know if anyone gave it any special significance."

The 16-year FBI veteran said he did not consider forwarding the arrest data to either the Secret Service or to FBI headquarters in Washington, where it could have been placed on a nationwide computer.

Senior FBI agents say they believe the failure to forward information about the Hinckley incident was a serious error of judgment, but Beavers said he was merely following a two-year-old set of guidelines issued by the U.S. attorney in Nashville on how to handle such incidents.

"Under the guidelines, a case like this will be given to the local authorities for prosecution," Beavers said. "We were correct in the way we handled it. President Carter was here, but the individual was on his way out of the city. Unless there's some federal interest, we don't get involved."

Beavers said he would have taken further steps, under the guidelines, only if it was "an aggravated situation - if the person had become belligerent, didn't want to surrender his gun, assaulted an officer, fired his gun, attempted to gain entrance to the aircraft or took a hostage."

"Throughout the United States, quite a few people are stopped with guns and knives every day. You have people who go hunting and ship their weapons. If the bureau advised headquarters of every weapon that

was confiscated during the boarding of an aircraft, it would be quite a few. We haven't found it necessary," he added.

Beavers acknowledged that these guidelines should be reevaluated. FBI officials in Washington also say it is unfair to single out the incident in hindsight, but that they are examining the entire matter. "We're conducting an internal review into whether or not an error was made, why Hinckley's name wasn't in our files and whether there needs to be a change," spokeswoman Laurie Davis said.

The shots fired at Reagan at the Washington Hilton Monday carried echoes of other attempted assassinations and the way they were handled. In September 1975, after Sara Jane Moore fired shots at then-President Gerald R. Ford, two Secret Service agents admitted that they had interviewed Moore the day before the shooting after receiving a police tip she might post a threat to Ford.

That incident occurred a few weeks after Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme tried to shoot President Ford in California. Fromme, a disciple of convicted killer Charles Manson, had a long arrest record, including a charge of attempted murder, and California law-enforcement officials had warned that female disciples of Manson might be involved in terrorist activities. The Secret Service never tried to interview Fromme.

Secret Service officials also were unaware that Arthur H. Bremer had followed then-President Nixon to Ottawa before Bremer shot Alabama Gov. George Wallace in May, 1972. Bremer had been arrested in Milwaukee seven months earlier on charges of carrying a concealed weapon, and he was later arrested for disorderly conduct.

President Lively as Fever Abates

Reagan Receives Briefing on Poland; Visits With Agents

By Bill Peterson
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Reagan's temperature returned to normal yesterday afternoon and he was said to be lively and alert as he was briefed by aides on Poland's crisis and visited by two Secret Service agents who were protecting him when he was shot.

Reagan, spending his fifth day at the George Washington University Hospital recovering from an assassination attempt last Monday, was responding well to routine physical chest therapy and felt good enough to be sitting up in a chair when Secret Service agent Timothy J. McCarthy visited him at lunch, according to White House spokesmen.

Reagan rose to greet McCarthy, also recovering from a bullet wound, and told him to relay a message to his children: "You tell them this: their father put himself between me and that guy. I'm proud there are guys around to take those kinds of jobs." Agent Jerry Parr, who pushed the president into his armored limousine at the sound of gunfire, visited Reagan earlier.

The president was described as "very alert, telling stories and laughing" during a midmorning examination by his personal physician, Dr. Daniel Ruge. His condition was said to be "good" and his temperature "only mildly elevated."

Told that the three other men wounded in Monday's assassination attempt — McCarthy, District of Columbia police officer Thomas K. Delahanty and White House press secretary James S. Brady — also were making progress toward recovery, Reagan said:

"That's great news, just great, especially about Jim. We'll have to get four bedpans and have a reunion."

Reagan was briefed twice during the day about the situation in Poland, first by White House chief of staff James A. Baker III, then later by counselor Edwin Meese III.

"The situation as we regard it bears the closest scrutiny, it bears watching," said White House deputy press secretary Larry Speaks. "It is our belief that no Soviet intervention is warranted or justifiable or imminent."

Reagan ran a temperature fluctuating from 99 to 102 degrees Friday night that doctors described as "a little bit of a setback." Doctors used a tube to remove some dormant blood particles Reagan was coughing up from his injured lung.

A White House medical bulletin said the tube was removed early yesterday and his chest X-ray showed improvement. Reagan, it said, awoke

at 6:30 a.m. after a good night's sleep, and had a breakfast of juice, kiwi fruit, soft boiled eggs and whole wheat toast.

"His temperature is down although it is not clear of fever," White House spokesmen quoted Ruge as saying early yesterday morning. "He continues to make satisfactory progress." Later, in the afternoon, the White House reported that the president's temperature was normal.

Brady, the most seriously wounded in the shooting, "continues to make excellent progress," and his temperature fluctuations have been brought under control, the medical bulletin said.

Brady also has begun to exhibit his well-known sense of humor. Asked by physicians yesterday what his job involved, the press secretary said, "I answer questions."

The doctor said, "Who for?"
"Anyone who asks them," Brady replied.

When the press secretary was asked why he was trying to open his eyes, which have been swollen shut by his injury, he responded, "To see who is the doctor asking all of these dumb questions."

On Friday, a doctor reported overhearing Brady complain around the sound of a ringing telephone. "Someone answer that phone, the phone's ringing," he was quoted as saying.

Yesterday's medical bulletin quoted physicians as agreeing with the thesis advanced by the FBI that the bullet that struck Brady's forehead may have exploded on impact, but it said the physicians doubted that much, if any, of the lead azide explosive contained in the bullet penetrated his skull.

In another development yesterday, the parents of John W. Hinckley Jr., accused in the shootings, said their son is "a sick boy" and asked the nation to "give him the benefit of the doubt" until the facts about his mental condition are known.

"We are joining in the prayers of millions for the president and the other victims and their families," said a statement signed by Jo Ann and

Jack Hinckley of Evergreen, Colo., and released by their lawyers. "We ask that you join us in prayers for our son John."

Hinckley, 25, is being held in the psychiatric unit of a federal prison at Butner, N.C., where he is undergoing up to 90 days of observation. Authorities believe Hinckley shot Reagan in a desperate attempt to win the attention of 18-year-old film star Jodie Foster.

Officials at Yale University, where Foster is a student, yesterday said federal authorities had ordered them not to discuss love letters written by Hinckley to Foster.

The actress turned the letters over to university officials last month.

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Practice Hasn't Yet Made Protection Perfect

By RICHARD D. LYONS

SINCE the founding of the Secret Service three months after the slaying of Abraham Lincoln, all but one of the attempts on the lives of six Presidents have been made by lone assassins who had virtually no chance of escape after firing a pistol at close range. Such was the case in the attempt last week, and the Secret Service conceded that it was impossible to guarantee that other lone guns won't pose a threat in the future.

"This is the sort of Democratic society in which the President wants to see the people and the people want to see him," Secret Service Director H. Stuart Knight told a Senate investigations panel last week. "Sure there is a foolproof way of protecting him — keep him locked up inside the White House."

So out among the people the President must go, pressing the flesh, as Lyndon Johnson put it. Or marching down Pennsylvania Avenue with his wife and little daughter, as Jimmy Carter did. Mr. Reagan has used his Presidential presence to attempt to whip up support for what he considers to be long overdue political and economic changes. To that end, he gave a luncheon speech Monday to the Building and Construction Trades Department of the A.F.L.-C.I.O. On leaving the hotel ballroom, Mr. Reagan entered a corridor designed to provide maximum protection for notables such as Presidents and visiting chiefs of state. The corridor was sealed, leaving possible danger only at the street-level exit. Mr. Reagan walked right into it.

Six Shots, Four Victims

The first bullet struck Timothy J. McCarthy, a Secret Service agent who apparently spotted the gunman and leaped between the attacker and the President. The second

shot, it is believed, hit Mr. Reagan, while the next four struck James S. Brady, the Presidential press secretary, Patrolman Thomas K. Delahanty of the District of Columbia police force, Mr. Reagan's limousine and a patch of grass 100 yards away.

Questions arose almost immediately as to whether the attack could have been prevented. Observers empowered with 20/20 hindsight wanted to know why the limousine could not have been parked closer to the hotel exit, why the accused gunman, John W. Hinckley Jr., was allowed into an area reserved for reporters and broadcast technicians, why — if Mr. Hinckley was so clearly "agitated" and "fidgety," as witnesses said — he wasn't questioned or at least watched, why members of the uniformed police detail were watching Mr. Reagan instead of spectators who might pose a threat, why so few Secret Service agents were near the President, why...?

Three Congressional subcommittees and an investigative unit of the Secret Service itself are seeking answers to these and dozens more questions — some of which will probably never be answered, if the assassinations of President Lincoln and Kennedy are any guide. Yet they must again be asked, if for no other reason than that an examination of the events and the "what if's" might lead to better protection for Mr. Reagan and his successors.

Protecting a chief executive is, under the best of circumstances, a thankless job. "If Presidential protection was our only function the Secret Service would have a hard time recruiting agents," Mr. Knight told the Senate panel, in addressing the question of morale and the effects of a lack of intellectual stimulation. As a branch of the Treasury Department, the Secret Service is empowered by legislation adopted in 1902 "...to protect the person of the President..." as well as fighting counterfeiting of United States currency and the forging of Federal checks and securities.

A Job for the Fit

Protecting a President and a Vice President, as well as members of their families, past Presidents and their families, Presidential candidates and visiting heads of state, is also a demanding job. It is by and large a young person's job; the average age of the several thousand agents is 36. Agents' training, at a base in the Washington suburbs, includes simulated assaults on a President mounted from sidewalks, buildings and other approaches.

While there is no "profile" as such of prospective assassins, they almost always are persons with a history of mental illness, a propensity to violence and, of course, access to weapons. The Secret Service, as well as the other Federal law enforcement agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, considers between 300 and 400 persons in the United States as being threats. Some 25,000 others have been listed in a "protective intelligence file" as people who, perhaps because of past records for violence, might be dangerous. Although last October in Nashville, on a day President Carter was in town, Mr. Hinckley was discovered to have three pistols in his possession and arrested, his name was not in the file. Explaining the lapse, officials of the Secret Service testified that the F.B.I. had failed to pass along what it knew about Mr. Hinckley. That is being investigated, too.

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When a President travels, the 60 field offices of the service are alerted to his route, local police forces are contacted, and in some cases persons living in a city to be visited are either put under surveillance or questioned. For all the care and planning, the safeguarding of a President has endless built-in difficulties. For one thing, there are millions of handguns in the United States. As the late J. Edgar Hoover, the former F.B.I. director, said after President Kennedy's assassination: "Absolute security is neither practical nor possible. An approach to complete security would require the President to operate in some sort of vacuum, isolated from the general public and behind impregnable barriers. His travel would be in secret; his public appearances would be behind bulletproof glass." To play on the stage of history from the inside of an isolation booth would never suit an

Security: insecure

By JOSEPH VOLZ

AFTER every attempt on a President—and we've had four since 1963—the same set of conclusions are reached by the experts and routinely discarded by the politicians as the memory of the violence fades. They are:

- The President should always wear a bullet-proof vest under his suit jacket when he is near crowds. Secret Service Director H. Stuart Knight told Congress last week that President Reagan wore such protective clothing whenever he was asked, but there was no sense of impending danger last Monday and Knight said no one suggested "protective attire."

- Crowds should be kept back so that no unauthorized person can get within 10 to 20 feet of the President. That is a fine theory, but how do you accomplish that and still allow the President to meet the people and "press the flesh," as LBJ used to call it?

- The FBI should forward all relevant information about would-be assassins to the Secret Service as it agreed to do in 1972.

In the latest case, FBI agents in Tennessee did not put the

Nashville firearms arrest last October of John W. Hinckley Jr., now charged with trying to kill Reagan, into the FBI's nationwide computer system and the Secret Service was not aware of Hinckley until Monday.

"We would, as a minimum, have conducted an interview with the gentleman," says Knight, "and as a result perhaps something more."

But Hinckley made no threats against anyone then and the FBI in Nashville says it was a misdemeanor case that routinely does not go into the headquarters master file.

The second-guessing will go on for years but despite the views of lawyers and court-appointed psychiatrists, an attempt to kill a public figure is invariably an irrational act. And rational investigations cannot always predict such irrationality.

There have been more than 100 attempts against federal officeholders since Andrew Jackson was shot at—and missed—by a deranged man on the steps of the Capitol back in 1835. No one has yet figured out how to halt them.

Joseph Volz covers politics from The News Washington bureau.

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Protecting Presidents? This Is Where We Came In

By Lloyd N. Cutler and James S. Campbell

IN 1969, AFTER the assassinations, riots and other disorders of that troubled decade, the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence sketched a portrait of the "typical" presidential assassin. Those who have attacked presidents have been,

- "white, male and slightly built."
- "Nearly all were loners and had difficulty making

friends of either sex and especially in forming lasting normal relationships with women."

- "Normal family relationships were absent or disrupted."

- "All of the assassins were unable to work steadily during a period of one to three years before the assassination."

- "All of the assassins tended to link themselves to a cause or a movement . . ."

- "All but [Lee Harvey] Oswald used a handgun."

- "At great risk to themselves, nearly all chose the occasion of an appearance of the president amid crowds for the assassination attempt."

On this record, the commission predicted that "the next assassin to strike at a president would have most" of these attributes.

The resemblances between the commission's 1969 profile and John Hinckley are striking. He appears to be just the sort of person we would have expected to do this deed.

Yet Secret Service Director H. Stuart Knight said last year: "There is no profile of an assassin. We keep searching for it, but there is no sure-fire profile." And, of course, he is quite right — because the profile of the assassin is also the profile of thousands of unhappy individuals who never commit an act of violence. As the Commission on Violence recognized, the personal attributes of its typical assassin, until the moment he strikes, can be found in "many valuable, trustworthy citizens."

But if the profile is not "sure-fire," it is not entirely useless, either. It contains clues to the better protection of the president that are worth pursuing.

The profile identifies the presidential appearance in a crowd as the moment of choice, and it also identifies the handgun as the weapon of choice. The choice of the handgun is not entirely rational: The serious political assassin in more unstable parts of the world would choose a rifle or explosives, and he would have confederates to assist him. Our sick, pathetic American assassin is a loner who chooses a less reliable weapon — even a "Saturday Night Special" with little "stopping power." To be sure, the concealable nature of the weapon enables him to get closer to the target in a crowd —

but so close that he can have no reasonable hope of escape.

Can we reduce the risk that the potential assassin, the handgun and the president will converge into tragedy? Are presidential discretion and protection a potential variable in this morbid equation, or must we accept the mothlike passion of all presidents to fly close to the flame? Is the handgun a potential variable, or must we take it as a given, a constant, in a nation possessing 60 million such weapons?

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There are two major variables in the assassination equation. One is the possibility of stricter limits and controls on the president's appearances amid crowds in public places. A president's chances of being attacked vary in direct proportion to his inter-

actions with uncontrolled crowds of people in unsecure areas.

Is it prudent to announce in advance the president's whereabouts at a specific time, to predict his exact location by the clustering of TV and press cameras, and then to allow unauthorized and unidentified people to approach within a dozen feet of that spot? Was it necessary to have a "photo opportunity" outside the Washington Hilton? Given the available photo opportunities inside the hall where the president spoke — and where metal detectors could have been used — was there any purpose for the outside photo opportunity, except to witness — and inadvertently to cause — any tragedy that might occur?

And if the outside photo opportunity was a reasonable risk, shouldn't a security perimeter have been established further from the

president's path and more carefully controlled by checking press badges? Magnificently as the Secret Service performed from the moment of attack, could there have been a laxness in observing these textbook precautions — understandable after the lull of several years since the last such attack?

As with the attack on President Reagan, the two unsuccessful attacks on President Ford and the killing of President Kennedy, all occurred when the president was exposed on a street to unscreened crowds of individuals. In a country with 60 million handguns, freely available to the thousands of Americans who fit within the "profile of the assassin," a prudent president must recognize that the streets of this nation are even less safe for him than they are for the ordinary citizen. The Commission on Violence observed that the president can "limit his public appearances to meeting places to which access is carefully controlled, especially by the use of electronic arms-detection equipment." As the commission said: "Effective security can exist if the president permits."

The second important variable is the handgun. The handgun is not merely the assassin's weapon of choice. It is the choice of the perpetrators of most violent crimes. It has no redeeming social virtue. The Commission on Violence recommended that handguns be both registered and licensed, and that licenses be restricted to those who could show both responsible character and a legitimate need.

The Gun Control Act of 1968, while it bans the importation of many small, cheap handguns, nonetheless permits the importation of Saturday Night Special parts for assembly in the United States, as was true of the handgun used to shoot President Reagan. Chairman Strom Thurmond of the Senate Judiciary Committee is reported to be willing to close this loophole. Sen. Thurmond is also said to be interested in establishing a system for requiring local police to notify the FBI and the Secret Service whenever an individual is arrested with a weapon in the same city near the same time as the visit of a president or a presidential candidate. The FBI was apparently notified of John Hinckley's arrest with three handguns in Nashville, but evidently failed to notify the Secret Service.

Prof. James Q. Wilson and his Harvard colleague, Mark Moore, have suggested more generally that persons arrested "in public place with a gun and without a permit" should be treated far less leniently than they now are. They suggest use of airport-type hand-held magnet meters on street frisks of suspects — an idea that would seem to be especially applicable to persons allowed to crowd into nearby areas as presidents make entrances and exits from public buildings.

The Kennedy-Rodino Handgun Crime Control Bill of 1979, soon to be reintroduced in the present Congress, would prohibit pawnbrokers from dealing in handguns at all, because of the long history of abuse and irresponsibility by these sources of the weapons used in violent crimes. That legislation, based in part on work undertaken by both the Ford and Carter Justice Departments, contains a number of other, more significant provisions sensibly and practicably designed to curb our national irresponsibility about handguns.

There are even stronger measures of great promise we may now be willing to take. One is the proposal that

handguns be both registered and licensed. A complementary measure would be to grant amnesty and pay a generous bounty for all unlicensed handguns that are voluntarily surrendered within a year after the licensing law takes effect. If they all came in, the one-time cost would be in the range of \$1 billion — a mere fraction of what we now spend annually to deter, detect and punish the crimes these handguns are used to commit.

At long last, we should also act on the 1969 commission's proposal for a major funding commitment to develop better methods of detecting the presence of concealed handguns and ammunition in public places. It should be possible to apply a chemical treatment to all handgun ammunition that would give it a detectable scent which could be picked up by a sensitive "sniffing" device. After President Kennedy's assassination, some of our best scientists suggested that ammunition could also be "tagged" with a low-level radioactive substance readily detectable by a hand-held Geiger counter. Very little has been done to prove out this promising idea.

□ □

This president and the members of his party in Congress, if they are pre-

pared to move, can win the passage of many such legislative proposals. They have shown the courage to buck the conventional wisdom as to the political impossibility of sharply cutting government expenditures, and they are turning public opinion around on this issue. The same political courage is needed to control the handgun.

President Reagan has fortunately survived the most recent of these recurring assassination attempts. History has handed him a unique opportunity — the best any president will ever have — to reduce the blight of the destructive and despicable handgun on the American social and political scene.

That would surely be better than waiting passively and with bated breath for the next attempt to be made by another loner with access to a handgun and a compulsion to reenact the television drama all of us have just witnessed, just as John Hinckley may have been reenacting the plot of "Taxi Driver."

Immediately after surgery, President Reagan repeated Winston Churchill's jest that there is nothing more exhilarating than to be shot at without result. It would be wonderful if this time we could achieve a result — a happy instead of a tragic one.

Lloyd Cutler and James Campbell are lawyers in Washington. Cutler was executive director of the National Commission on Violence created by President Johnson after the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy. Campbell was general

Don't Rage At the Inexplicable

Maureen Reagan, on the afternoon it happened, asked us all to be angry. But angry at what? A neat geometric model could be constructed of a society in which a young man detected carrying three pistols at an airport in Nashville should have been, somehow, neutralized, though exactly how is not self-evident.

The same model might inform us that when a semi-anonymous young man writes a strange letter to a young movie star freshly matriculated at Yale University, such a communication should have passed instantly into the hands of the FBI; but there are girls who get letters from suitors who say they will blow up City Hall if they do not receive a valentine, and it is usual to smile at such missives, and go back to work.

Such a model might advise the prudence of keeping an eye on anyone judged too kooky to be admitted to membership in the American Nazi Party, but since exclusion from such an elite would make kooks of a good many of us, how would the model provide enough guards?

The model might more easily make a case for tighter security by the Secret Service when the president wanders about town, but are we enjoined to be angry at a group of men, one of whom threw himself into the line of fire to protect Maureen's father, and our president?

Making Ourselves Unrecognizable

By the time the engineer of the model that would entitle us to anger finished his labors, he'd be too exhausted to express any emotion at all. And our society would be unrecognizable.

"And God said to Jonah, Doest thou well to be angry for the gourd? And he said, I do well to be angry, even unto death.

"Then said the Lord, Thou hast had pity on the gourd, for the which thou has not labored, neither madest it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night."

John Hinckley, like the killer of Allard Lowenstein, is for all intents and purposes as inexplicable as Mount St. Helens, and probably as uncontrollable. It isn't anger that we summon but, paradoxically, the kind of joy that comes distinctively from the submission the Lord urged on Jonah, who was angry that the Lord did not destroy Nineveh notwithstanding that Jonah had promised that He would.

The joy we feel is, at the immediate level, caused by Ronald Reagan's survival - leavened only by sadness over the awful wounding of Jim Brady and two others. The deeper joy comes from the behavior of Ronald Reagan under stress.

Professor Jeffrey Hart remarks that that behavior has had the effect of exorcising the miasma of American Evil as Principal Cause of violence. That there is evil isn't to be doubted, let alone that there is willfulness and, arguably, criminal indifference in our courtrooms and prosecutors' offices.

But the charges against America have been comprehensive, not particular. When Robert Kennedy was killed, Arthur Schlesinger consigned all of America to perdition, all but invoking on it the curse that Jonah sought for Nineveh. Edward Kennedy accosted the news of the attempted assassination with an impromptu sermon on the same theme. It has been ricocheting down the echo chambers of self-abuse since the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

What Reagan did, as Professor Hart perceives it, was instantly to in-

voke perspective. All the enduring values then struck us, rather than those that sink the spirit when adversity comes. "Who's minding the shop?" - i.e., the shop had to be minded - society has not come to an end. "I've ruined my best suit" - i.e., measured on the scales of the Old Testament, an attempted assassination is barely noticeable. And "If I got this much attention in Hollywood, I'd never have left" - an artistically brilliant way of conveying an appreciation of the transcendent unity of a disparate people who, in an emergency, come together, rather than expose themselves, like Jonah, to dehydration and death.

The doctor at the hospital said, "Today we are all Republicans." Few Democrats would begrudge the statement, or the generality that the heroism of Ronald Reagan made better men of all Americans.

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F.B.I. Confirms Malfunctioning of Explosive Bullet That Struck Reagan

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 3—The Federal Bureau of Investigation confirmed today that the special explosive bullets that struck President Reagan, a Secret Service agent and a District of Columbia police officer malfunctioned and did not detonate on impact.

The bureau said it believed that the bullet that struck James S. Brady, the President's press secretary, was the same type and had exploded when it struck Mr. Brady in the head. Physicians who operated on Mr. Brady recovered four bullet fragments from his brain.

Thomas Kelleher, assistant director in charge of the bureau's laboratory division, confirmed at a news conference this afternoon that the bullets that hit Mr. Reagan and the two law-enforcement officers were "Devastators," an explosive bullet manufactured until late last year by a small Georgia company. He said there was a "strong probability that the round taken from Mr. Brady" was also a Devastator.

Mr. Kelleher said the bureau learned yesterday afternoon that the .22-caliber bullets used in Monday's attack were explosive in nature. As a result, he said, the bureau informed physicians that the bullet that was lodged in the neck of Thomas K. Delahanty, a District of Columbia police officer, could possibly detonate.

A Three-Hour Operation

The bullet was removed from Mr. Delahanty's neck in a three-hour operation last night. Doctors said this morning that the officer was in stable but serious condition.

Until late last year, Mr. Kelleher said, this particular type of exploding bullet was made by Bingham, Ltd., a company with eight employees in Norcross, Ga.

Mr. Kelleher said that the original bullet and shell casing were made by another manufacturer and that the Georgia plant modified the projectiles, with an explosive charge inside a canister being placed in the nose of the bullet.

He said the explosive charge in the

canisters was lead azide. Gun experts told The New York Times that azide is rich in nitrogen and very unstable, meaning that it is easy to explode.

Canisters in 3 Bullets Intact

While explaining that the bullets that struck Mr. Reagan, Mr. Delahanty and Timothy J. McCarthy, the wounded Secret Service agent, had not exploded, Mr. Kelleher did not say how the bureau had made that determination. Tonight the bureau said that further analysis showed that the canisters were still intact in all three bullets.

Mr. Kelleher said at his news briefing that it was not until yesterday that the F.B.I. determined that the bullets used in the attack were explosive in nature.

He said that determination was made after the manufacturer sent the F.B.I. specimens of the same type of bullet.

Sandy Brygider, president of the Bingham concern, said today that the bullets like those fired at Mr. Reagan were de-

veloped to enable sky marshals to shoot hijackers without having the bullet penetrate an airplane's fuselage, which would cause rapid decompression in the aircraft.

Heat Said to Cause Explosion

He also said that there was no danger that the bullet would have exploded while surgeons were removing it from Mr. Reagan. "There was no danger of exploding inside unless there was excessive heat," he said.

He said the bullet was manufactured and distributed around the country for about one year and that the ammunition had been marketed to police agencies and licensed firearm dealers. The company stopped making the bullet because of tooling problems.

At a news conference this morning, an official at the Washington Hospital Center, where Officer Delahanty is resting, said that the operation to remove the bullet lodged in his neck was "intricate, complicated and difficult."

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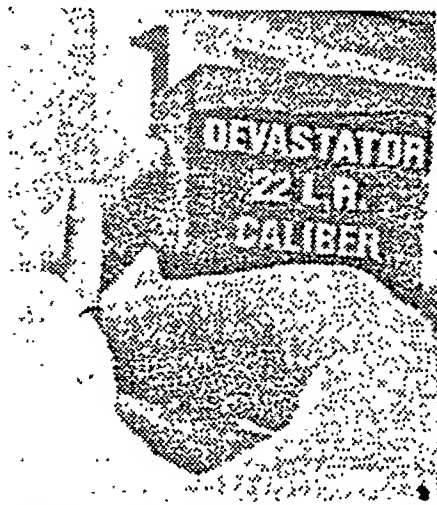
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Bullet that hit Ron spares bystanders

By JOSEPH VOLZ

Washington (News Bureau)—The explosive .22-caliber bullets—"Devastators"—used in the attack on President Reagan are designed to disable a suspect with a minimum of danger to bystanders, the head of the company that makes them said yesterday. The ammunition is also used by hunters to kill small animals.

Thomas Kelleher, chief of the FBI's laboratory division, said the FBI had



Reporter holds .22-caliber "Devastator" bullet and magazine

never heard of Devastators until an empty box of the brand was found in the hotel room occupied by John W. Hinckley Jr., the man accused of trying to murder Reagan. The FBI has an extensive file on bullet types, but the file does not contain information on Devastators, Kelleher said.

The empty cartridge box found in Hinckley's room was reportedly illustrated with a picture of a can torn apart by a bullet.

Sandy Brygider, president of Bingham Ltd., which makes Devastators in the Atlanta suburb of Norcross, said the ammunition was first developed to enable federal "sky marshals" to bring down hijackers without having the bullet hit passengers or penetrate the outer wall of an airplane and

cause rapid decompression of the cabin at high altitudes.

By exploding upon impact, the bullet is designed to fragment and scatter shards of metal in the victim's body, penetrating less deeply than a normal round, he said. But if the explosive fails to function, he added, the projectile acts like a normal bullet.

The bullets cost \$12.75 for a box of 12, officials said.

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The Exploding Bullets

By Pete Earley and Charles Babcock

Washington Post Staff Writers

The bullets that struck President Reagan and two of the three other persons wounded in Monday's assassination attempt were positively identified yesterday by the FBI as "Devastators" — expensive, customized .22-caliber cartridges designed to explode upon impact with the force of slugs fired from much more powerful handguns. None of those bullets exploded, however.

A "strong probability" exists that a fourth bullet, which struck White House press secretary James S. Brady in the head, was a Devastator that did explode.

The FBI said last night after further tests that the explosive container in the bullet that hit Reagan was still complete and that none of the material had leaked into the president's chest as was first feared.

Although federal authorities said they were not familiar with Devastators, a check of 21 ammunition dealers in the Lubbock, Tex., area — where alleged assailant John W. Hinckley Jr., purchased three handguns — shows that exploding ammunition, including Devastators, is readily available.

Lubbock pawn shop owner Scott Elmore said exploding bullets were the "in thing" about a year ago for hunting rabbits and were sold at most gun stores. They are usually

used in rifles. The bullets, however, were not reliable, Elmore said, and their popularity diminished. At least one major Lubbock ammunition dealer, K-B Guns, still sells Devastators, primarily to police.

Thomas Kelleher, assistant FBI director in charge of the agency's laboratory, said the bullets removed from Secret Service Agent Timothy J. McCarthy and D.C. policeman Thomas K. Delahanty also were identified as Devastators.

The crime lab chief said it is unclear why the bullet that hit Brady exploded while the three other slugs did not. An official for Bingham Ltd., the Norcross, Ga., company that manufactures Devastators, told the FBI that the bullets had to be traveling at least 900 feet per second to burst on impact.

One possible reason the slugs didn't explode, a ballistics expert suggested, is because the RG14 six-shot revolver which Hinckley is accused of using had a 1 3/4-inch barrel, far too short to allow the bullet to reach its full power.

Sandy L. Brygider, director of Bingham Ltd., said Devastators were created for "defensive use." They were designed primarily for use against sky-jackers by skymarshals who needed a round that could be fired aboard an airplane without the risk of penetrating the aircraft skin and causing rapid decompression. The bullets have been available commercially since 1978.

Technical experts at Bingham Ltd., said they enlarge the hole in the tip of a standard .22-caliber long-rifle hollow-point bullet and insert a small aluminum cup which is filled with from one to three grains of lead azide. The tip is sealed with lacquer. The bullet is designed to explode on impact when the lead azide is crushed.

Asked if the bullet is more or less deadly than a conventional .22 bullet, Kelleher said, "I really don't know but, normally, fragmentation causes more damage. It's made to reduce penetration and keep all the punch that you can."

A company spokesman for Devastator said the bullet has the impact of one shot from a .38-caliber or larger handgun.

Kelleher said it was possible but not probable that the bullet in President Reagan's lung could have detonated or exploded during the operation to remove it.

Noting that the bullet had hit the president's car before striking him, Kelleher said, "It already had taken as big a shock as it was going to take on the ricochet."

Delahanty underwent emergency

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surgery Thursday night at the Washington Hospital Center to remove the bullet lodged near his spinal cord after the FBI had told his doctors it might be explosive. "Our concern was the bullet's location in the neck near the spinal column," Kelleher said. He added that there were concerns that the bullet still might ignite because of heat or shock from some hospital treatment.

Kelleher and FBI spokesman Roger S. Young defended the length of time it took for the FBI to determine that the bullets were Devastators. The Washington Post reported yesterday that an empty box labeled "Devastator" was found in Hinckley's hotel room by investigators Monday. But Kelleher said the bureau had not heard the name "Devastators" until Tuesday.

There was further delay because not a single reference about Devastators was found in the 3,000 cases on file in the bureau's firearms lab, he said. After a full day's search Tuesday, it was learned that the manufacturer was the Bingham company, and a request was sent to the manufacturer for specimens of the shells, Kelleher said.

The cartridges didn't arrive until Thursday afternoon and after a quick examination Delahanty's doctors were informed about the possibility that he was still carrying a potentially explosive round.

Kelleher noted that it was also likely that the two bullets that did not hit anyone were Devastators as well. One hit the president's limousine window and fragmented. The other hit the window of a building across the street and fragmented.

A source said, however, that FBI agents were told two hours after the shooting that the bullets fired at Reagan could not have been conventional ammunition because the bullet hole in the glass window across the street was too large for a .22-caliber and because pieces of the bullet were found on the floor between the glass and a drape.

Although the FBI did not have any records about Devastators in its files, the D.C. Police Firearms Unit has a box of Exploders made by Bingham in its bullet library. Exploders are made exactly like Devastators, except they are a larger caliber bullet than .22s.

The Devastators fall under the same regulations as less powerful conventional bullets even though they have exploding heads. A bullet must have at least one-fourth of an ounce of explosive in its tip to come under stricter federal rules governing artillery shells.

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'Explosive' Bullet Causes Controversy

By Fred Hiatt
Washington Star Staff Writer

D.C. Police Officer Thomas K. Delahanty, who was shot during the attempted assassination of President Reagan Monday, always had doubts about his doctors' plan to leave a bullet in his neck.

When he learned late Thursday the bullet was potentially explosive — a miniature bomb waiting to go off — his doubts became a conviction.

"He said, 'Let's go,' and he got out of bed and started walking toward the operating room," said Dr. Michael W. Dennis, who gave Delahanty the news. "At that point we had to say, 'Slow down, we still need to get some studies.'"

The FBI disclosed late Thursday afternoon that the bullet that wounded the president — presumably fired from the same gun that fired at Delahanty — was an exploding "Devastator" slug. Such bullets can be detonated by impact or heat, causing more damage than an ordinary bullet, and the FBI's revelation triggered an intense spurt of activity at the Washington Hospital Center, where doctors and patient alike had believed the excitement was over.

It also set off a battle between the hospital and D.C. police about how to handle the news, culminating in a shouting match between Police

Chief Burtell M. Jefferson and Richard M. Loughery, the hospital's chief executive officer.

And it left a number of D.C. police officers angry and puzzled about why the FBI waited three days to tell them about the empty "Devastator" box agents found in the hotel room of Reagan's alleged assailant, John W. Hinckley Jr.

"If they (the FBI) knew or had a strong suspicion that it was an explosive bullet, I was unnecessarily exposing our officer who was lying with a bullet in the neck," said one police official who asked not to be named.

Surgeons initially intended to leave the bullet, which was in a relatively inaccessible spot, to see if Delahanty could live comfortably without surgery. But they operated after hearing of the potential danger Thursday.

The FBI analyzed the bullet removed from Delahanty's neck and confirmed that it was, in fact, a "Devastator" bullet that had failed to explode.

Delahanty was reported in good condition yesterday. He remained in the intensive care unit for observation, a hospital spokesman said.

FBI officials said they began laboratory tests on the bullets after they found the "Devastator" box Monday night. But they did not positively identify them as the ones allegedly used by Hinckley until Thursday, and they said they did not want to alarm Delahanty needlessly.

An FBI spokesman, David Divan, said the FBI found the bullets were explosive by analyzing those removed from the president and from wounded Secret Service agent Timothy McCarthy and comparing them to the "Devastator" bullets obtained from the manufacturer in Georgia. FBI officials also said that the bullet that struck White House press secretary James S. Brady in the brain exploded upon impact, which could account for the serious injury he sustained.

When FBI officials were certain of the type of bullets with which they were dealing, they called both Chief Jefferson and Dr. Howard Champion, director of the trauma unit at the hospital, who received his call at about 3:50 p.m. Thursday. Champion then met with Dr. Norman Horowitz and Trueman Haskell, the assistant administrator for risk management, all of whom decided they needed more information from the FBI before proceeding.

At 4:30 p.m. two FBI ballistics experts, several District police officials and Dr. Michael W. Dennis joined the other officials for more discussion. Forty-five minutes later, they decided to recommend surgery.

Dennis and Horowitz explained their recommendation to Delahanty, who immediately gave his consent. But between that moment and 9:30 p.m., when surgery finally began, Delahanty had time to grow nervous about his predicament.

"It was a bit of a shock, because they'd told him they were going to leave the bullet in," said one officer from Delahanty's precinct. "And then you find you have an explosive in your back."

Dr. William Fouty, who became an expert at removing undetonated projectiles during his service in Vietnam, went into the surgical area to ask for nurses and anesthesiologists to volunteer for the potentially hazardous duty. By 8 p.m., the surgical team was ready for last-minute X-

rays to pinpoint the location of the bullet.

Outside the operating room, meanwhile, hospital officials and police were quarreling about whether to inform the press. Hospital spokeswoman Jane P. Snyder said the police wanted to keep the unexpected surgery a secret, something she knew could not be done.

"I knew damn well it was going to leak," she said. "Before I could get the statement written, I had had calls from five of the media."

At a post-operative press conference, Jefferson and Loughery shouted at each other as they fought over whether Jefferson or the doctors would speak first to the press. Jefferson, who made a brief statement and then declined to answer questions, could not be reached for comment Friday.

The surgery lasted from 9:30 p.m. until 11:50 p.m. and was a success, with surgeons taking no special precautions — except to make sure, Dennis said, "not to drop the bullet."

Despite Delahanty's favorable prognosis, several of his colleagues remain upset about why he had to wait so long.

"We work well with the Bureau (FBI) as a rule, and I would like to give them the benefit of the doubt," said one knowledgeable police official. "But these kinds of questions are going to be raised."

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Mental Tests on Hinckley May Take Up to 3 Months

By ROBERT PEAR
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 3 — Psychiatrists examining John W. Hinckley Jr. at a Federal prison in North Carolina will probably try to discover every possible detail about his personal, social, criminal and psychiatric history, from the moment he was born to the present.

Experts in the field of forensic psychiatry, in a series of interviews today, described the standard procedure for such examinations, which can take as long as three months.

Mr. Hinckley, the 25-year-old son of a Colorado oil company executive, has been formally charged with firing the shots that wounded President Reagan and a Secret Service agent here on Monday. He was taken yesterday to the Federal Correctional Institution at Butner, N.C., where he will undergo tests designed to ascertain his state of mind at the time of the shooting, including his capacity to form the "specific intent" that would be part of the definition of such a crime.

Dr. Park Elliott Dietz, an assistant professor of psychiatry at Harvard who used to be in charge of pretrial evaluations at Bridgewater State Hospital in Massachusetts, emphasized that courts, not doctors, ultimately decided whether a defendant was responsible for his conduct at the time of the alleged crime. However, judges and juries often make substantial allowances for opinions expressed by psychiatrists.

Sirhan Case Cited

The pretrial examination of the suspect should be "as broad and as detailed as possible," said Dr. Seymour Pollack, director of the Institute of Psychiatry, Law and Behavioral Science at the University of Southern California. Dr. Pollack testified as a Government witness at the trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan.

He said that Mr. Sirhan was mentally ill, but nevertheless acted with "malice aforethought" when he killed Robert F. Kennedy in 1968. Mr. Sirhan was found guilty and is still in prison in California.

In a comprehensive pretrial examination such as the one ordered for Mr. Hinckley, psychiatrists said, they would routinely try to interview his friends and relatives, including his parents. North Carolina officials reported that Mr. Hinckley's parents visited him today, for the first time since he was charged with shooting Mr. Reagan.

Doctors familiar with such cases said it was likely that Government psychiatrists would have access to the vast amounts of data about Mr. Hinckley that was collected by the Federal Bureau of Investigation since the shooting.

Although prison officials refused to answer any questions about Mr. Hinckley today, forensic psychiatrists at other institutions said that his examination would almost certainly include these elements:

QA complete physical examination with all the laboratory tests ordinarily

given to patients entering a hospital.

QA Neurological tests, probably including an electroencephalogram and X-rays of the skull and brain.

QA full account of Mr. Hinckley's personal, social, criminal and psychiatric history, as revealed in interviews with him, his friends and relatives. In preparing this account, psychiatrists would also use all the information they could obtain from police reports and school, military and medical records, including evidence of prior hospitalization and drug abuse, if any.

QA Psychological tests designed to measure intelligence and personality traits. Usually there are pencil-and-paper tests, oral questions, pictures to interpret and puzzles to put together.

QA Intensive observation, by doctors and nurses, of what Mr. Hinckley says and does while in prison.

QA "mental status examination," consisting of specific questions asked in a standardized way, to show how Mr. Hinckley's mind now functions. He would typically be asked to discuss his sleeping and eating habits and to interpret proverbs such as, "Don't count your chickens before they hatch."

If they follow the usual practice, prison psychiatrists will also try to question Mr. Hinckley in detail about the period before, during and after the shooting. If he acknowledged having done it, he might then be asked whether he thought it was wrong and whether he realized the consequences of his act.

Statements made by a defendant in such an examination are not supposed to be used as evidence against him at a criminal trial.

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PARENTS OF SUSPECT VISIT HIM AT PRISON

Hinckleys See Son for First Time
Since He Was Charged With
Shooting the President

BUTNER, N.C., April 3 (AP) — The parents of John W. Hinckley Jr. visited their son today for the first time since he was charged with trying to assassinate President Reagan after they made a cross-country journey to the prison where the suspect is being held under tight security, officials said.

Agents of the State Bureau of Investigation drove Mr. Hinckley's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John W. Hinckley Sr., from the Raleigh-Durham Airport to the Federal prison, an aide to the state Attorney General, Rufus Edmisten, said. The couple left their home in Evergreen, Colo., yesterday.

Mr. Hinckley's parents entered the prison grounds at 1:43 P.M. Three hours

later they emerged and returned to Raleigh-Durham where they were said to be headed for Washington.

Mr. Hinckley was brought to the Federal Correctional Institution yesterday after a Federal judge ordered additional mental tests. He had been held at the Marine Corps base in Quantico, Va., since his arrest Monday on charges of trying to kill the President.

90-Day Stay Scheduled

Tom DeCair, a Justice Department spokesman, said Mr. Hinckley would stay at Butner for 90 days for psychiatric evaluation.

"He is in an eight-room hospital unit. He is by himself in a secured area and he is confined to that area for security reasons, obviously," Mr. DeCair said.

The medium-security Federal center provides psychiatric care and programs for psychotic inmates and repeat offenders, and mental competency tests for defendants before the Federal courts.

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At prison without walls, Hinckley's the exception

By JOSEPH VOLZ

Washington (News Bureau)—The Federal Correctional Institution in Butner, N.C., where John W. Hinckley Jr. is being held is testimony to a reform movement in the American prison system.

The facility has no walls. Many prisoners stroll along the college-like grounds in clothing of their choice, play tennis and live in pleasantly furnished rooms with television sets. These inmates have keys to their rooms and the rooms have no bars.

Not Hinckley. The 25-year-old suspect accused of trying to assassinate President Reagan is confined in a special cell and watched around-the-clock.

But for inmates in a special experimental study program, Butner has an extensive job-training program that goes far beyond the license-plate-factory image of most prisons. Inmates, for instance, are taught air conditioner repair and the manufacture of optical lenses.

THE PROGRAM takes potentially violent inmates from the regular federal prison system and places them in a pleasant, rehabilitative environment.

Butner has no gun towers and guards wear navy-blue blazers and slacks as they patrol the 42-acre grounds, that are enclosed by a double-chain link fence topped by barbed wire.

The \$14 million prison—it cost \$10 million more than planned—has a staff of 220 and a population of 320 inmates. Up to 75 prisoners live in each of the one-story buildings. Butner opened in 1976.

Hinckley is housed in a mental health unit, which usually accommodates eight inmates, one in each room. Except for security staff, he is alone in the block in an 8-by-12-foot cell. His room is furnished with a single bed, toilet, mattress, one pillow and blanket. There is no radio or television. All his meals are served in the cell, which has a one-way window that allows psychiatrists to observe him.

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Hinckley begins testing as lawyers drop protest

By HARRISON RAINIE

Washington (News Bureau)—John Warnock Hinckley Jr., the man charged with trying to assassinate President Reagan, underwent his first day of extended mental examination yesterday after his attorneys dropped their attempt to prevent government psychiatrists from interviewing him.

Hinckley's parents visited him for the first time since the shooting.

The FBI pressed its search for evidence in the case, believing that perhaps some of the bystanders in a crowd just before Reagan was shot outside the Washington Hilton hotel might have taken pictures showing Hinckley firing a .22-caliber pistol at the President. It is expected that the case will soon be presented to a federal grand jury.

Hinckley's father, John W. Hinckley Sr., a wealthy Colorado oilman, and his wife, Joanne, visited their son yesterday in his quarters at the Federal Correctional Institution in Butner, N.C. The Hinckleys traveled to Butner from their \$300,000 home in Evergreen, Colo.

Tom DeCair, a Justice Department spokesman, said Hinckley will stay at Butner for up to 90 days for psychiatric evaluation. A staff psychiatrist said Hinckley was assigned to the top-security area, called the "seclusion area" or "special housing."

CHIEF DEFENSE attorney Vincent Fuller told Federal Court officials here that he no longer objected to government mental tests to determine Hinckley's fitness to stand trial and his mental state at the time he allegedly tried to kill the President. The move cleared the way for Hinckley to be tested at Butner.

Hinckley was declared competent to stand trial in the shooting of the President and three others, but U.S. Attorney Charles Ruff requested additional tests of the suspect. Judge William B. Bryant, chief judge of the Federal District Court in Washington, ordered up to 90 days of additional exams, during which time defense psychiatrists will also be allowed to interview the suspect.

It is those interviews that will likely determine the kind of defense that Fuller will offer for Hinckley. Fuller said on Thursday when he waived Hinckley's right to a preliminary exam that he might plead "insanity."

Under federal law that governs criminal cases in the District of Columbia, he can offer a defense of "insanity," although an acquittal of Hinckley under that charge forces the presiding judge to send him to a mental hospital for treatment until doctors certify that he is recovered. Conceivably, then, Hinckley could spend the rest of his life in a mental facility.

HOWEVER, D.C. LAW also offers a "diminished responsibility" defense, which allows a defendant to be acquitted without being judged insane. Diminished responsibility means that a suspect's mental state prevented him from carrying out a premeditated or deliberate act.

A letter found in Hinckley's room addressed to Jodie Foster, the teenage actress on whom Hinckley had a desperate crush, read: "There is a definite possibility that I will be killed in my attempt to get Reagan. It is for this very reason that I am writing you this letter now . . . Jody, I would abandon this idea of getting Reagan in a second if I could only win your heart and live out the rest of my life with you, whether it be in total obscurity or whatever."

Hinckley had never met Foster.

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Phone Calls Recorded

By Ron Shaffer and Laura A. Kiernan
Washington Post Staff Writers

Investigators who searched the downtown hotel room of John W. Hinckley Jr. confiscated two tape recordings — including one of telephone conversations between Hinckley and a woman believed to be Jodie Foster, the teen-aged movie star Hinckley was apparently trying to impress when he allegedly shot President Reagan, according to informed sources.

The other tape recording taken from Room 312 of the Park Central Hotel here, the sources said, was of Hinckley playing the guitar.

Law enforcement officials are considering the recorded conversations as further evidence of an obsession with the actress, an obsession that investigators believe led the shy, 25-year-old drifter to shoot the president.

An unmailed, two-page letter also found in the hotel room — addressed "Dear Jodie," signed "John Hinckley" and apparently written less than two hours before Monday's shooting — refers to telephone conversations with her.

"Although we talked on the phone a couple of times, I never had the nerve to simply approach you and introduce myself," the letter reads.

"Jodie," the letter reads, "I would abandon this idea of

getting Reagan in a second if I could only win your heart and live out the rest of my life with you, whether it be in total obscurity or whatever.... The reason I'm going ahead with this attempt now is that I just cannot wait any longer to impress you."

Foster, an 18-year-old freshman at Yale University, said in a news conference Wednesday that she had never talked with Hinckley, although numerous letters signed "John W. Hinckley" or "J.W.H." were among the thousands of pieces of unsolicited mail she has received.

Investigators are working on the theory that the conversations referred to in the letter may have been made by an anonymous caller that Foster never knew by name. That caller could have been Hinckley, and the taped conversation could be one of the calls, sources said.

The tapes are now in the custody of the FBI, which is evaluating them as part of its investigation into the shooting that wounded Reagan, presidential press secretary James S. Brady, D.C. policeman Thomas K. Delahanty and Secret Service agent Timothy J. McCarthy. All are recovering in downtown hospitals.

Federal investigators are checking the long-distance telephone calls from every place Hinckley is known to have stayed, including the home of his parents in a fashionable suburb of Denver, Colo.

The FBI has declined comment on all aspects of anything recovered from Hinckley's hotel room here. The FBI inventory of those items is said to number more than a dozen pages, but the usually public record of that inventory has been sealed by the court.

Meanwhile, a task force of some 50 people, principally FBI agents complemented by Secret Service officers and D.C. policemen, is sifting through hundreds of leads in an attempt to trace Hinckley's travels across the country in the months prior to the shooting.

Hinckley has been charged with attempted assassination of the president, a charge that could result in life imprisonment upon conviction, and assault on a federal officer — the Secret Service officer.

A federal judge yesterday tentatively declared him mentally competent to stand trial, but ordered more thorough mental tests, including some to determine if he was sane at the time of the shooting. Hinckley is now being held in a psychiatric wing of the Federal Correctional Institute in Butner, N.C.

John Hinckley Sr., chairman of the board of Vanderbilt Energy Corp. of Denver, and his wife visited their son for about two hours yesterday, along with lawyers from the Washington firm of Williams & Connolly, sources said.

Before he was flown to Butner by helicopter Thursday, Hinckley was being kept isolated in the Quantico Marine Base brig under extraordinarily tight security precautions.

Hinckley appeared passive to persons who saw him there. His sole request during his confinement was for an electric razor. Law enforcement officials promptly bought one for him, according to informed sources.

Investigators believe that Hinckley developed an obsession for Foster, whose most talked-about role was that of a teen-aged prostitute in the 1975 film "Taxi Driver."

In that film, the driver, a mentally unstable war veteran who has fallen in

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love with the prostitute, stalks a political candidate and plans to assassinate him. But those plans are foiled by a security guard.

Hinckley was arrested at the Nashville metropolitan airport on Oct. 9 when three guns he was carrying in his suitcase set off a metal detector. Then-president Carter was in town on the same day and then-candidate Reagan was scheduled to be in Memphis on the same day.

The plane Hinckley was trying to board when he was arrested was

headed for New York — where both Reagan and Carter were scheduled to be the following week.

Federal investigators now believe there are definite parallels, sources said, between the behavior of Hinckley and that of Arthur Bremer, who shot George Wallace in Laurel, Md., in 1972 after stalking the candidate around the country. The author of the screenplay for "Taxi Driver" said the story was inspired by Bremer's life. It is still unclear, however, whether Hinckley ever saw the film.

What is clear, from the letter and the findings of investigators, is that Hinckley pursued Foster for seven months. He followed her to Yale, bragged to bar patrons that he was her boyfriend, hand-delivered numerous notes to her doorstep and stood outside her dormitory until, the letter says, he became "a topic of more than a little conversation, however full of ridicule it may be."

Foster said at her press conference that the letters she received at Yale that presumably came from Hinckley "were assumed to have been love-type letters."

In one instance, she said, she received a greeting card with the words, "I love you," written several times. Foster said she threw away the first letters she received, but several received after March 1 were turned over to her college dean and are now in the possession of the FBI.

The Hinckley family has said little about their son since his arrest. On Thursday, their next-door neighbor, William Sells Jr., told reporters that the Hinckleys were unaware of their son's reported infatuation with Foster or his possession of guns until it was reported in the media.

Investigators have found evidence that Hinckley purchased at least six guns, three of which were confiscated in Nashville and two others of which were the same type of cheap, .22 caliber revolver used in the shooting of Reagan.

Federal investigators now have five of the guns in their possession, including one found at the scene of Monday's shooting outside the Washington Hilton Hotel, sources said yesterday.

On the day of the shooting, Hinckley's parents said that their son had been under psychiatric care for five months before the shooting.

Law enforcement officials have located the psychiatrist, who is practicing in the Denver area, but he has refused to discuss Hinckley with them, citing the confidentiality of his relationship with his patient.

Meanwhile, Hinckley's defense lawyers told government prosecutors yesterday that they would not appeal the federal court order committing their client for psychiatric examination, a procedure that is expected to last at least 90 days.

Experts Say Hinckley Fits Mold of Typical Assassin

By Steve Stecklow

Washington Star Staff Writer

If there is such a thing as a typical assassin, John Warnock Hinckley Jr. fits the mold.

He was a loner, a young man who lacked direction and close friends, and who drifted from city to city, holed up in cheap motel rooms.

The youngest child in an affluent, success-oriented family, he was a personal failure, a college dropout who resorted to fabricating work experiences on job applications.

By the age of 25, his reality had transformed into fantasy. In his mind, he reportedly fashioned a love affair with a teen-age movie star whom he had never met. Desperate to receive her attention, he apparently decided last Monday to commit a "historical deed" — the assassination of the president of the United States.

Assassination experts interviewed by The Washington Star drew parallels between Hinckley and others who have shot at or killed political and historical figures, including President John F. Kennedy's assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, Rev. Martin Luther King's murderer, James Earl Ray and Gov. George C. Wallace's assailant, Arthur Bremer.

Indeed, mental health experts who specialize in treating violent behavior said Hinckley's history provides a textbook case study of a would-be assassin.

"As with Ray, as with Bremer, as with Oswald, all were people who couldn't pull their own personal lives together, couldn't hold a job, couldn't seem to stop drifting," said Patricia Johnson McMillan, author of "Marina and Lee," a psychological biography of the Oswalds.

"They sought to stop drifting by fixing on a political figure and identifying themselves with that person even if it meant sacrificing their own life or any kind of a life after that . . . it gives them an identity for all time."

A common element in many male assassins, the experts said, is their inability to relate well to women. Bremer, shortly before shooting Wallace, had been spurned by a woman. Ray's only female acquaintances were prostitutes. Hinckley had no known girlfriends, but became obsessed with an 18-year-old movie starlet, Jodie Foster, who appeared in the violent film "Taxi Driver."

In an unmailed letter to Foster federal agents found in Hinckley's District hotel room after the shooting, he had written, "I would abandon this idea of getting Reagan in a second if I could only win your heart and live out the rest of my life with you . . . Give me the chance with this historical deed to win your respect and love."

Similarly, Oswald and Hinckley both attempted to join extreme political groups. Kennedy's assassin applied to the Socialist Workers Party, but was rejected because the group did not have a branch in the southwestern United States, where he lived. Hinckley became a member of the National Socialist Party in Texas, a Nazi organization, but later was expelled because party leaders claim they found him too militant. Psychiatrists say the incident typified his inability to socialize, a problem shared by many assassins.

Monday's murder attempt also was tinged with an ironic twist common in recent American assassination cases — the assassin's own political beliefs seemed somewhat akin to his target's.

"Why should he (Hinckley) shoot a conservative president if he's a Nazi, why should leftist Oswald shoot Kennedy and conservative Bremer, Wallace?" asked George McMillan, author of "The Making of

an Assassin — A Life of James Earl Ray."

"The actual point is that with these guys, their so-called political facade really doesn't make any sense . . . What they have done is crudely transfer their anger to some political structure."

The anger that would cause someone to try to murder the president most likely stemmed from early childhood and intensified over the years, according to mental health experts.

(The psychiatrists and psychologists interviewed emphasized they have not examined Hinckley, and were basing their comments on news accounts of his background.)

"Of all the assassins I have seen, their trouble didn't start when they were 20 years old or 25, it went back into childhood," said Dr. David Abrahamsen, a New York City psychoanalyst who has examined 11 persons arrested for threatening the life of a president, as well as "Son of Sam" killer David Berkowitz.

Dr. Abrahamsen's observations were substantiated in a just-completed study of criminality by three Washington psychologists. Drs. Stanley and Eva Gochman and Saverio Fantasia interviewed nearly 100 prisoners with assorted criminal records and found that the murderers stood out by their recollections of childhood.

"The murderers all recalled experiences of wanting revenge, feeling violence had been done to them," explained Dr. Stanley Gochman.

Gochman was skeptical of reports that Hinckley's childhood and adolescence were normal. So were several psychiatrists, including Abrahamsen.

"His father was very successful and apparently Hinckley was trying to live up to his father's ideals and wasn't able to," Abrahamsen said.

Other psychiatrists noted that Hinckley's older sister and brother both graduated from college. His 30-year-old brother, Scott, entered the family business and is now vice-president of Vanderbilt Energy Corp. in Denver.

Dr. Abrahamsen said Hinckley's past closely matches the backgrounds of the other would-be assassins he has examined.

"He fits in particularly in regard to his fantasy life and the apparent impression one has that he has been a personal failure on possibly many levels — in regards to schooling, and in regards to his relationship with girls and to his family."

"We find a man who is very frustrated and trapped and finds no way out of it except to attempt killing. We find in the profile of most of the assassins that they are beset with internal conflicts. They don't know what to do because they have no self-esteem or esteem of others. The only thing they can think of is to carry out a fantasy."

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For Hinckley, the fantasy of assassinating the president may have been influenced by violent movies he had seen. For example, "Taxi Driver" is about an alienated former Marine who plans the assassination of a U. S. senator.

"I think it's possible that it vented into his particular fantasy of how he might achieve a certain illustriousness," Dr. Stanley Gochman said. "I think we underestimate what a film's impact can be on children and persons who may be disturbed and

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Parents Visit Hinckley in N.C. Prison

Suspect Undergoing Mental Examination

By Jane Mayer
Washington Star Staff Writer

The parents of the young drifter accused of shooting President Reagan Monday were reunited with their son yesterday - now incarcerated in a federal psychiatric prison near Durham, N.C., where he awaits mental tests to determine his sanity.

John W. Hinckley Sr., a wealthy Denver oil executive, and his wife JoAnn came out of seclusion from their luxurious home in the hills outside of Denver, Colo., to visit their 25-year-old son John Jr.

Hinckley's parents were chauffeured from the Raleigh-Durham Airport by North Carolina Bureau of Investigation agents and arrived at the sprawling facility in one of two identical brown sedans that entered the gates at 1:43 p.m. yesterday.

The last time they had seen him was about two weeks ago. Then, neighbors said the rootless young man had parked his white Plymouth Volare in the garage of his parents' spacious Evergreen, Colo., home, announcing that he was off to California to see friends and to find a job.

Instead, law enforcement officials allege, the younger Hinckley flew to Los Angeles, possibly picking up a gun he had purchased earlier, and then hopped a Greyhound bus to Washington.

Once in Washington, he allegedly loaded a cheap .22-caliber handgun with exploding "Devastator" bullets. And on Monday afternoon he allegedly shot and wounded Reagan, his press secretary James S. Brady, a Secret Service agent and a D.C. police officer.

Hinckley Sr., described by friends as politically conservative and temperamentally private, and his wife spent "several hours" visiting their son under "extremely tight" security, Justice Department officials said.

The visit took place inside the Butner Federal Correctional Institution, a modern medium-security psychiatric prison with no bars or guard tower, 13 miles from Durham.

State officials expect the parents to stay in the area only for a short while - not the full 90 days their son is expected to spend undergoing psychiatric tests.

The younger Hinckley was flown to Butner Thursday afternoon under court order. U.S. District Judge William B. Bryant earlier found Hinckley competent to stand trial, but ordered additional tests to determine his sanity at the time he allegedly attacked the president.

Hinckley is being held without bond on charges of having attempted to assassinate Reagan and three others as they stepped outside of the Hilton Hotel here on Monday afternoon.

Authorities allege that Hinckley fired the six shots in a desperate bid for the attention of teen-age movie actress Jodie Foster, with whom he had become infatuated, but apparently had never met.

The younger Hinckley is being sedated with Valium, according to one source. He is being kept in solitary confinement, where he can neither see nor hear any of the 340 other inmates.

In an effort to keep Hinckley entirely sealed off from the other prisoners, an entire eight-room wing has been devoted to his incarceration, with all the rooms but his own being kept vacant.

His suite is under 24-hour guard, and although it has no bars, it features a single bullet-proof, clear plastic window, and a one-way window through which he can be observed by prison and medical staff members.

Hinckley, who has been described as an avid reader, has been provided with reading materials, but no newspapers or magazines which might include accounts of his alleged assassination attempt.

He has no radio or television in his 8 by 12 foot cell, which is described by prison officials as "an airy private room with a single bed and toilet." Meals are served in his room, and he is expected to exercise there, too.

The tests which Hinckley will undergo during the next three months could prove crucial to the government's case against the accused assailant - who may try to plead innocent by virtue of insanity.

Officially, the tests are meant to determine, in the words of U.S. Magistrate Lawrence Margolis, if "as a result of mental disease or defect, (the suspect) lacked substantial capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of his conduct, or . . . to conform his conduct to the law."

Justice Department spokesman Thomas P. DeCair declined to explain exactly what kinds of tests can be used to determine sanity.

In New York, psychiatrist Dr. David Abrahamsen who specializes in such cases, and who analyzed "Son-Of-Sam" killer David Berkowitz, said the tests include a number of standard written, physical and oral examinations.

Abrahamsen stressed that he had not examined Hinckley, and knew none of the particulars of Hinckley's case.

But he said that customarily, criminal suspects undergoing psychiatric analysis are given standard IQ tests, ink blot tests, and tests where they are shown pictures from which they are asked to assemble a story.

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'A Little Bit Of a Setback' For Reagan

Fever Reaches 102; Brady Is Removed From Critical List

By Susan Okie and Lee Lescage
Washington Post Staff Writers

President Reagan ran a 101-degree fever last night after a partial collapse and inflammation at the base of his injured left lung earlier in the day. At one point his temperature rose to 102 before dropping to 99 yesterday afternoon.

White House physician Daniel Ruge said in a medical bulletin last night that a bronchoscope was used to remove "several small bronchial plugs as well as dormant blood" from the left lung. Dr. Ruge said Reagan's condition is "satisfactory" and that he remains "alert and generally comfortable."

Meanwhile, presidential press secretary James S. Brady was removed from the critical list at George Washington University Hospital, but he remains in intensive care.

According to the White House, when Brady's physician asked him yesterday what his job was, he replied "press secretary at the White House."

Reagan's surgeon, Dr. Benjamin Aaron, said that the president's "recovery to date has been remarkable," although he characterized yesterday as "a little bit of a setback."

Ruge said the president was put back on a "broad-spectrum antibiotic" that he received after surgery Monday, "pending the results of specific cultures."

Aaron said that since the operation to remove the explosive "Devastator" bullet that pierced his left lung, Reagan has been coughing up "old blood" that collected in the lung as a result of the wound.

Aaron said Reagan's fever probably was due to collapse of a small lung segment because blood clots blocked his breathing tubes.

The president was photographed yesterday for the first time since he was shot, and he met with his secretaries of state and defense, who were about to embark on foreign trips.

Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr. left for the Middle East last night carrying letters from Reagan to leaders of the eight nations he will visit on the first Reagan administration venture into the diplomatic tangle of Mideast politics.

Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger left last night to visit NATO nations in a trip that includes a nuclear planning meeting. There, he also will have the opportunity to press his European counterparts for commitments to united action should there be internal suppression or a Soviet invasion in Poland.

After his visit with Reagan, Haig was asked by reporters at the hospital about his widely reported disagreement with Weinberger in the White

House Situation Room while Reagan was undergoing surgery Monday.

"I think the whole team performed magnificently, and the American people were well served by the team," Haig replied.

The president was informed by senior aides of the 88-to-10 Senate vote Thursday in favor of his budget-cut proposals and said, "That's tremendous," deputy White House press secretary Larry Speakes said.

The FBI confirmed yesterday that the bullet that struck Reagan, apparently after ricocheting off his limousine, was a "Devastator" designed to explode upon impact. The FBI said it did not detonate.

Thomas Kelleher, chief of the FBI's laboratory division, said the bullet could have left a compound known as lead azide in Reagan's body, but he stressed that there is no evidence of leakage from the bullet into his body.

Kelleher added that although lead azide is toxic, it would not threaten the president's life. "It's a lead compound," Kelleher told United Press International, "and depending on the quantity you have in your body, it might make you sick."

Reagan's surgeon was asked about the president's trip to Mexico and California, scheduled to begin April 23, and indicated that any travel depends on how quickly the president regains his strength.

"Blood loss... is one of the more severe forms of trauma," Aaron said. "He probably, for a period of two or three weeks, will be tired very easily... and will have to have periodic rest periods."

Reagan should be able to begin working part-time in the Oval Office in about 10 days, Aaron added.

The medical report on press secretary Brady continued to be cautiously optimistic.

Brady "has gotten brighter every day since his injury," said Dr. Arthur I. Koblitz, who performed the 6½-

hour brain operation on Brady. "He speaks to me now with three-, four- and five-word sentences. If asked how he feels, he'll say to me, as he did today, that he feels fine."

Koblitz said that Brady moves his right side, which is controlled by the relatively undamaged left half of his brain, "close to normally," but moves his left side very little.

It is too early to speculate about the extent of Brady's recovery because of the continuing risk of complications such as brain and lung infection or blood clots in the legs, Koblitz said.

"Under the very best of circumstances, he could end up with essentially no mental impairment" and "would walk with a cane and have some weakness of the left arm," Koblitz said.

"The worst case is, he can still die," the surgeon added.

For a year, Brady's condition can be subject to change, and any mental loss that remains after a year will probably be permanent, Koblitz said.

Aaron and Dr. Dennis O'Leary, dean of clinical affairs at George Washington University, who has been the principal hospital spokesman since Monday, were questioned yesterday about Reagan's condition when he arrived at the hospital.

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The New York Times _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The Atlanta Constitution _____
The Los Angeles Times _____

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"I think he might have been near shock when he first came in the hospital," Aaron said. "None of us was willing to sit around and see how much trouble he would be in."

Aaron said that even after a chest tube drained blood that had collected in Reagan's chest before he reached the hospital, "the blood was continuing to move out . . . at a rather alarming rate."

He said Reagan lost $3\frac{1}{2}$ quarts, or about half of his blood, and was given transfusions of about eight quarts.

At the White House, Speakes said chief of staff James A. Baker III had ordered a written study of the White House operation during the shooting crisis as a historical record.
